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The INTERNATIONAL Magazine

Can England lift the trophy?

HOW THEY GOT THERE

BUMPER PREVIEW EDITION

NATIONS CUP SPECIAL

WORLD SOCCER
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FRONT COVER

England's Gary Lineker and Peter Beardsley are this month's front cover men.

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HOST NATION FAVOURITES

WEST GERMANY, as hosts, will start favourites to win the European Championship in their own back yard.

These are the Finals which managers, players and the media are hyping up as The Greatest. But those who glory in predictions have a habit of falling flat on their face.

The world (almost literally) saw that as Liverpool bowed in the FA Cup Final to a Wimbledon who were so much the outsiders they were almost out of sight.

Six of Europe's eight title contenders have been consistent, top-level competitors throughout the 1980s: West Germany, Italy, England, Spain, the Soviet Union and Denmark. That leaves 'wild card' roles for Holland, absent from the 'first division' since the 1980 European finals in Italy, and for the Republic of Ireland — who have never previously qualified for the finals of any major event.

Consistency is often said to be the hallmark of champions; highly-practised teamwork is of profound importance, too. No-one dare waste a pass in midfield or allow concentration to lapse in defence.

On this basis Spain — runners-up in France four years ago — Denmark, England and the Soviet Union appear fortunate, whatever their warm-up performances may say. They arrive in West Germany with a nucleus of players hardened by action in the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico.

Spain and Denmark have unfinished business from both the last European finals and the last World Cup to resolve. Spain have been disappointing in their preparations; the Danes were a disappointment in qualifying.

by KEIR RADNEDGE

Maybe they can relax now and play a bit. After all, this is their last chance. Morten Olsen, Preben Elkjaer, Klaus Berggren, Ivan Nielsen and even Soren Lerby won't be around much longer.

England are sliding in the betting with every new groin strain and twisted ankle. England's strength always used to lie in defence. Now the attack must take the strain. And starting against the Irish Republic is perhaps the worst draw England could have got.

The Irish will be rarin' to go and their Football League professionals won't feel any of the respectful caution which the Dutch and Soviets might bring to a first match against England.

Never mind the England hooligans. On the pitch the Irish will instill their own fear and should not be underestimated. As our 1987 rankings revealed, Jackie Charlton's men were the most consistently successful in Europe last year.

No doubt the Soviet Union, as ever, will start like a train and then progressively run out of steam and nerve just when it matters. They boast an A to Z of talent, from Aleinikov to Zavarov. But it's 16 years since they last reached the European finals — and then crashed 3-0 at the last hurdle to West Germany.

Franz Beckenbauer was West German captain that day in Brussels. Now he is manager, with an awesome task. Like Italian boss Azeglio Vicini, he has been ringing the changes. Beckenbauer has had to find a new goalkeeper, new defenders and new midfielders. Now injuries may mean he has, at the shortest possible notice, to find a new attack as well if skipper Klaus Allofs fails to recover fitness after knee surgery.

German preparations have not been complicated by the need to qualify. But the 'advantage' of playing host can be a double-edged sword. Supporter pressure will be intense. And the lack of competitive international competition over the past two years may reduce the younger players' ability to cope.

Italy exemplify the constrasting demands imposed by the need to rebuild. New manager Azeglio Vicini is concerned not only with the European championship but with the Italians' World Cup hosting in 1990. Thus he needs players who can succeed both today and tomorrow.

And that does not mean artists alone. Milan did not win the Italian league by relying exclusively on Ruud Gullit's art and technique. It also took tremendous spirit, the ultra-professionalism of Franco Baresi and the youthful ambition of Paolo Maldini.

Baresi and Maldini will take their will-to-win into the Italian camp. But for manager Vicini, the World Cup on home soil in two years' time is the ultimate goal. The Italians would be quite happy with a last-four place in West Germany and maybe nothing beyond.

Progress

Those who seek omens may regard the progress of PSV Eindhoven and Ajax Amsterdam to their respective Champions' and Cup-winners' finals as just the overture for Ruud Gullit's Dutch national team colleagues to take West Germany by storm.

The Dutch remember Munich '74 as if it were only yesterday. They will surely never have a better chance of avenging their defeat in the World Cup Final that day.

Do not be deceived by Gullit's comment (you read it in these columns first!) that: "I don't know if

THIS MONTH . . .

Everything you want to know about the European championship finals in West Germany:
- ★ The fixtures
- ★ The referees
- ★ TV coverage
- ★ Kick-off times
- ★ The stadia
- ★ The managers
- ★ The stars
- ★ The finalists — team by team, player by player
- ★ How they qualified

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- ★ Full statistical back-up
- ★ Informed opinion

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THE FIXTURES

All British first-round TV coverage is live by BBC or ITV where indicated. Coverage of semi-finals and the Final to be decided according to the progress of the tournament.

FIRST ROUND

GROUP I

June 10 (20.15 local; 7.15pm BST) **ITV**
WEST GERMANY ( )__ v __( ) ITALY
..... — .....
Düsseldorf: Rheinstadion. Attendance: .....
Referee: Keith Hackett (England)

June 11 (15.30 local; 2.30pm BST) **BBC**
DENMARK ( )__ v __( ) SPAIN
..... — .....
Hannover: Niedersachen stn. Attendance: .....
Referee: Albert Thomas (Holland)

June 14 (17.15 local; 4.15pm BST) **BBC**
WEST GERMANY ( )__ v __( ) DENMARK
..... — .....
Gelsenkirchen: Parkstadion. Attendance: .....
Referee: Bob Valentine (Scotland)

(20.15 local; 7.15pm BST) **ITV**
ITALY ( )__ v __( ) SPAIN
..... — .....
Frankfurt: Waldstadion. Attendance: .....
Referee: Erik Fredriksson (Sweden)

June 17 (20.15 local; 7.15pm BST) **ITV**
WEST GERMANY ( )__ v __( ) SPAIN
..... — .....
Munich: Olympiastadion. Attendance: .....
Referee: Michel Vautrot (France)

(20.30 local; 7.15pm BST) **ITV**
ITALY ( )__ v __( ) DENMARK
..... — .....
Cologne: Mungersdorf stn. Attendance: .....
Referee: Bruno Galler (Switzerland)

Group 1 table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							

**If teams are level on points, the deciding factors will be: 1, goal difference; 2, goals scored; 3, direct result; 4, lots.*

we will win the European championship but people will enjoy watching us try."

Gullit has been described by Cesar Menotti, Argentina's World Cup winning manager in 1978, as "Europe's single most outstanding individual of the last decade." But Gullit, whatever the publicity machine may pretend, is just one man.

Even his prodigious talent cannot subvert the essence of the European championship. For this is Europe's most compulsive team event, the ultimate four-yearly summit meeting of football's most sophisticated football diplomats.

Ultimately, as the tournament's history underlines, it is the best team which will run the final lap of honour with the Henri Delaunay trophy rather than the most extravagant individual.

Four years ago Michel Platini was the inspirational hero of France as they won the European crown in Paris. But France could not have won without the contributions of such as Alain Giresse, Jean Tigana and Max Bossis.

That is why Holland will look not only to Gullit but to top marksman John Bosman and the influential attacking sweeper, Ronald Koeman. Above all, the Dutch possess a highly-tuned tactical awareness. They may out-think the opponents they cannot initially outplay.

Of course, like Holland and Gullit, the European championship is more than the sum of the individual players. It is a fairground in which sponsors, fans, officials and the media jostle together on the swings and roundabouts.

But, in the end, there can be only one winning team. The Germans, with their fragile attack, based as it is on the suspect fitness of Völler and without skipper Allofs, will keep it tight.

They will probably win if the tournament is an event dominated by the artisans. But if the artists have their day, then watch out for Holland.

FINALS HISTORY

1960 (Paris): Soviet Union 2, Yugoslavia 1.
1964 (Madrid): Spain 2, Soviet Union 1.
1968 (Rome, replay): Italy 2, Yugoslavia 0.
1972 (Brussels): West Germany 3, Soviet Union 0.
1976 (Belgrade): Czechoslovakia 2, West Germany 2. Czechoslovakia won 5-3 on penalties.
1980 (Rome): West Germany 2, Belgium 1.
1984 (Paris): France 2, Spain 0.

GROUP II

June 12 (15.30 local; 2.30pm BST) **ITV**
ENGLAND ( )__ v __( ) REP. IRELAND
..... — .....
Stuttgart: Neckarstadion. Attendance: .....
Referee: Siegfried Kirschen (East Germany)

(20.15 local; 7.30pm BST) **BBC**
HOLLAND ( )__ v __( ) SOVIET UNION
..... — .....
Cologne: Mungersdorf stn. Attendance: .....
Referee: Dieter Pauly (West Germany)

June 15 (17.15 local; 4.15pm BST) **BBC**
ENGLAND ( )__ v __( ) HOLLAND
..... — .....
Düsseldorf: Rheinstadion. Attendance: .....
Referee: Paolo Casarin (Italy)

(20.15 local; 7.15pm BST) **BBC**
REP. IRELAND ( )__ v __( ) SOVIET UNION
..... — .....
Hanover: Niedersachsen stn. Attendance: .....
Referee: Emilio Soriano Aladren (Spain)

June 18 (15.30 local; 2.30pm BST) **BBC**
ENGLAND ( )__ v __( ) SOVIET UNION
..... — .....
Frankfurt: Waldstadion. Attendance: .....
Referee: Jose Rosa dos Santos (Portugal)

(15.30 local; 2.30pm BST) **BBC**
REP. IRELAND ( )__ v __( ) HOLLAND
..... — .....
Gelsenkirchen: Parkstadion. Attendance: .....
Referee: Horst Brummier (Austria)

Group II table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							

**If teams are level on points, the deciding factors will be: 1, goal difference; 2, goals scored; 3, direct result; 4, lots.*

SEMI-FINALS

June 21 (20.15 local; 7.15pm BST) **BBC/ITV**
Win I: ..... ( )__ v __( ) 2nd II: .....
..... — .....
Hamburg: Volkparkstadion. Attendance: .....
Referee: Ion Igna (Rumania)

June 22 (20.15 local; 7.15pm BST) **BBC/ITV**
Win II: ..... ( )__ v __( ) 2nd I: .....
..... — .....
Stuttgart: Neckarstadion. Attendance: .....
Referee: Alexis Ponnet (Belgium)

Note: There is no Third Place Playoff.

THE FINAL

June 25 (15.30 local; 2.30pm BST) **BBC/ITV**
..... ( )__ v __( ) .....
..... — .....
Munich: Olimpiastadion. Attendance: .....
Referee: .....

**If the scores are level at 90 minutes, extra time will be played followed, if necessary, by a penalty shoot-out.*

EUROPEAN CUP FINAL REPORT FROM KEIR RADNEDGE IN S

PSV WIN ON PENALTIES

PSV Eindhoven's victory in the Champions' Cup Final here was not much of a victory.

They battled for it and they deserved the luck of the shoot-out. But it's hard to get too excited about a team carrying off a trophy from a competition in which they have not won a game since a 2-0 victory over Rapid Vienna in November last year.

Both Bordeaux in the quarter-finals and Real Madrid in the semi-finals were beaten on the away goals rule. It makes for success.

But if Stuttgart were all that that European football is about then England's clubs should not worry too much about whether they are a part of it.

Of course, European competition is about much more than a flat concoction of Dutch over-anxiety and Portuguese pragmatism.

It is about tradition, romance, legend. It is about flashes of greatness and a theatre of drama. It is the great stage for tales of yesterday's heroes, who never put a foot wrong — or so we are told.

What a lot of romantic twaddle we had about Benfica in the lead up to Stuttgart.

Benfica are a great club. Greater than PSV Eindhoven will ever be. It's not merely achievement. It's history, tradition and a relationship with the public which the great Latin clubs manage in a way beyond the northern Europeans.

PSV are doing well at the moment and no doubt the Philips empire is well pleased. But corporate sympathies have not always lain too closely with the club in the past and may well be withdrawn in the not too distant future.

Being a 'great' club is different to being a great football team.

Coach Toni wasn't joking when he said, after defeat in the Neckarstadion, that the team still had room for improvement.

A generous under-statement, even allowing for the injury absence of skipper Diamantino in midfield, Benfica have two of the most pedestrian fullbacks you will find anywhere and a centre-forward in Mats Magnusson who may be "strong and powerful" by Portuguese league standards, but who looked like a big boy lost out in the big wide world.

Hardly surprising then that they played the European Cup Final as Wimbledon had played the FA Cup Final against Liverpool.

Fearful, as underdogs, that their rivals would take them to the cleaners on most occasions, they constructed a strategy which would put them on at least even terms on this one day of the year.

As the game unfolded, so did Benfica's grand plan to short-circuit the Philips electronics.

Benfica spies had studied PSV live and on video. They had understood the danger posed by the powerful, overlapping Eric Gerets, down the right.

They had also understood the danger of allowing PSV the space for those high-speed intricacies of Gerald Vanenburg through midfield.

So Antonio Pacheco was delegated to the left wing, to keep Gerets occupied to such an extent that he would not have time or inclination to turn up as an extra man in attack.

Further back, Benfica recalled veteran club captain Sheu to deputise for Diamantino and sit in front of the back four, clogging up midfield and cutting off Vanenburg's links with Kieft and Gillhaus.

The difference between the reactions of Liverpool in the FA Cup Final, and PSV in Stuttgart, was that not for one moment in the 120 minutes did PSV drop their guard or let their concentration slip.

It wasn't pretty to watch but the professional application was awesome even if PSV did let their irritation show a little too much.

Portuguese sides have never been noted for their defensive qualities. Porto last year needed a Brazilian, Celso, at the heart of defence just as Benfica looked to his compatriot, Mozer, to seal the gaps.

Ahead of him Rui Aguas divided his time between pretending to attack and standing in the way every time Ronald Koeman threatened one of those forward bursts of his.

Koeman didn't like it and despatched Ivan Nielsen to 'deal' with Aguas. Perhaps he considered justice was done early in the second half when Aguas strained a hamstring blocking a free kick and was lost to the match.

For all the first half and the early stages of the second these Benfica ploys — the varied uses of Pacheco, Sheu and Aguas — meant that Vanenburg had no-one to work with in PSV's attacking third of the pitch.

PSV had to find a remedy and coach Hiddink chose to abandon the close game in favour of a more robust style.

Lerby and Gerets began to hit long, angled crosses at the Benfica penalty box and this, allied to a natural fatigue factor, began to yield results.

Three times Vanenburg had opportunities to open the scoring. Once Silvino saved bravely at his feet, another time a delicate chip floated just wide of a post.

Nielsen blasted another chance high over the bar. With less than 20 minutes remaining PSV at last looked something like it.

But not enough. And so to penalties. There is little point in repeating all the arguments. In the highly-complex world of top-level football administration and organisation a penalty shoot-out has the supreme virtue of settling an issue on the day.

Why not, some people ask, just share the trophies ? Diplomatic that may be. But why should two teams strive for all-out victory when they start a match with half a cup anyway?

You might as well not play the Final at all. I can think of plenty of teams over the years who would have been delighted to share the trophy.

Professional sport is about winners and losers: that's why people pay their hard-earned cash to go along and watch. Because all the delights and disasters of their daily lives are captured, in microcosm, in 90 minutes on a football field.

Chelsea manager Bobby Campbell recently chided a senior BBC man, Bryon Butler, that "reporters (and by inference the fans as well) are on the fringe of the game and don't really understand all the pressures."

The suggestion that professional footballers have some existential insight into the meaning of life which is denied to the rest of humanity hardly stands up.

It's just more of the pretentious nonsense which managers often come up.

Benfica coach Toni was another example. He felt that Benfica had "written a golden page" with their appearance in Stuttgart.

"Do you call three goal efforts in 120 minutes golden?" he was asked. Toni ignored the barb.

Like Artur Jorge, Porto's coach last year, Toni has one of those little Portuguese moustaches. On Artur Jorge it looked jaunty. But then he was a winner.

Toni's moustache drooped sadly at the corners. He was a loser. But maybe there was a grain of truth in what he said.

In years to come, the next time Benfica reach a European final, the experts will look back, and count up, and Stuttgart will become part of Benfica's glorious history.

Just like Bern in 1961. That was when Benfica won their first Champions' Cup. It was the first time most fans outside of Portugal had ever heard of them.

Yet how did Benfica beat Barcelona? Undeservedly. Against the run of play. With incredible luck under siege in the last 20 minutes from the likes of Ladislav Kubala, Zoltan Czibor and Sandor Kocsis.

But that victory is now part of Benfica's glorious heritage — one of the two reasons (Amsterdam '62 was the other) why Benfica brought along to Stuttgart their old stars such as Jose Aguas (father of Rui) and Mario Coluna.

Eusebio, in his role as an assistant coach, was on duty in Stuttgart anyway (before the match the photographers were more interested in him than in the current crop of Portuguese star names).

Just as 1961 is now immortalised, so will 1988 be one day where Benfica are concerned. Unworthily.

If I have dwelt at length on Benfica rather than the winners, PSV, then it's because they held major responsibility for a negative night.

PSV we can hope to see on a better day. Benfica, Toni thought, "lost with dignity" at the end of it all, as Hans Van Breukelen guessed right to stop Veloso's underpowered penalty.

QUOTES

GUUS HIDDINK (PSV coach): We were too anxious in the first half. We did not have enough quality control. Benfica are a good team and made it hard for us, harder perhaps than some of our players expected. I think justice was done in the end. Now we have won this and Ajax were again in the final of the Cup-winners' Cup I think you must watch Holland in the European finals. The players from our two clubs have gained a great deal of big occasion experience which will be important. I think Holland will play a 'realistic' way in the first round but after that they will show the real Dutch style. This is a generation of players which compares with that of the 1970s.

TONI (Benfica coach): It was a very tactical game. I think we played with dignity and can be proud of what we have achieved this season. Missing that last penalty was tragic for Veloso, who had had an outstanding game. I can't compare this team with the team of more than 20 years ago. Football changes and to stay at the top you have to change with it.

STUTTGART

HANS VAN BREUKELEN . . . the decisive save.

Certainly Benfica lost with a greal deal more dignity than anguished Real Madrid in the semi-final.

But then, Madrid were much more ambitious. They had tried to win the tie.

Benfica, in Stuttgart, tried only not to lose. There is little dignity to be found there.

Benfica would have proved worthy of their place in the Final only if they had come out to try to play. They didn't, they betrayed their own heritage and got what they deserved.

MEMO TO UEFA

The European federation and the West German FA used Stuttgart as a dummy run for their media organisation at the European championship finals. One hopes, for their sake, that they have learned from the errors of Stuttgart. First, Press conferences are not much use without microphones which work and, secondly, leaving the media stranded at stadia without after-match transport is to court an awful lot of bad publicity.

CHAMPIONS CUP FINAL
Stuttgart, May 25

PSV Eindhoven 0
Benfica 0
After extra time. Att: 55,000. Ref: Agnolin (It).
PSV 6-5 on penalties.
PSV: Van Breukelen — Gerets, Koeman, Van Aerle, Nielsen, Heintze — Linskens, Vanenburg, Lerby — Kieft, Gillhaus (Jansson 106).
Benfica: Silvino — Veloso , Dito, Mozer, Alvaro — Chiquinho, Elzo, Sheu, Pacheco — Aguas (Vando 56), Magnusson (Hayjiry 111).Penalty sequence: Koeman 1-0, Elzo 1-1; Kieft 2-1, Dito 2-2; Nielsen 3-2, Hayjry 3-3; Vanenburg 4-3, Pacheco 4-4; Lerby 5-4, Mozer 5-5; Jansson 6-5, Veloso shot saved.

THE MATCH

0 — Benfica kick off.

12 — PSV win the first corner and Koeman drives the first shot of the match well wide.

26 — Elzo receives treatment for the second time for the after-effects of one of a number of erratic challenges by Lerby.

28 — Gerets concedes Benfica's first corner after a wild clearance from Koeman under pressure. There is an unseemly scramble in the penalty box before PSV regain control.

34 — The first real shot: Vanenburg bursting through a rare gap in midfield and forcing Silvino to dive to his right to save.HT: PSV 0, Benfica 0.

53 — Koeman shoots over the top from a flicked free kick.

56 — Vando substitutes for Aguas, who strains a hamstring stopping a free kick.

64 — PSV force two corners on the left in quick succession and Silvino appears to invent an injury to catch his breath.

71 — The first real opening of the match. Benfica's defence is in an almighty tangle and Vanenburg bursts clear on the left. Presumably he has forgotten what to do after such a stifled evening and Silvino saves at his feet.

74 — Kieft crosses from the right, Lerby heads down and Nielsen, on the edge of the six-yard box, swivels and shoots over the top.

77 — Gillhaus, anonymous until now, accelerates into the Benfica penalty box, rides a scrappy tackle and turns the ball back for Vanenburg whose chip flies inches wide of Silvino's left hand post. Immediately Benfica break back and Vando runs round the defence to glide a shot narrowly wide across Van Breukelen.

81 — Lerby clips another ball over the Benfica defence, Vananburg gets a deflecting toe to it and Silvino is lucky to push it clear.

89 — Pacheco, tackled on a breakaway, becomes the fifth Benfica player to lose a boot. While he puts on a new pair PSV win a free kick and Koeman thumps his shot into Silvino's midriff.90min: PSV 0, Benfica 0.

103 — A rare Benfica shot: Veloso forging through for a respectable effort which Van Breukelen catches at head height.

105: PSV 0, Benfica 0.

106 — Lerby is shown the yellow card for a fearful knee-high assault on the breakaway Pacheco. Simultaneously PSV substitute the disappointing Gillhaus with Jansson.

110 — PSV still pushing the pace. Lerby fires just wide. . .Benfica replace the struggling Magnusson with Hayjry.

119 — PSV's last chance. Silvino dives forward bravely to save at the feet of Kieft after a Lerby free kick into the box.

Full (extra) time: PSV Eindhoven 0, Benfica 0.

MATCH-BY-MATCH REPORTS AND PICTURES FROM THE EUROPEAN NATIONS CUP NEXT MONTH

FOCUS ON BELGIUM'S NEW EUROPEAN TITLE HOLDERS

MECHELEN TRANSFOR

TWO men have fashioned this radical transformation which has turned Mechelen into European title-holders: a dynamic president named John Cordier, who provides the administrative expertise, and sagacious Dutch coach called Aad De Mos.

On the domestic scene, however, Mechelen's standing suggests that they still have some way to go before they attain the aura of invincibility which one used to associate with Anderlecht and Brugge.

Also known by their French name of PC Malinois, Mechelen were founded in 1904 by a group of students from the local universities. In the 1940s the club enjoyed a minor domination of the Belgian game when they won the championship on three occasions — in 1943, 1946 and 1948. But for much of the time since Mechelen have spent most of their existence either avoiding relegation or, when they have gone down, clawing their way back up again.

They enjoyed a prolonged spell in the top flight from the 1928-29 season until 1955-56 when the lengthening shadow of relegation no longer could be avoided. Mechelen went down and it was to be seven years before they returned.

But winning the second division title in 1963 did not prepare the club for the inevitable gulf in standards, and Mechelen's stay was to be short-lived. Relegation was followed, however, by an immediate return to the first division until the end of the 1969 season.

Two seasons later they were back up again and went through most of the 1970s as nothing more than a mediocre side content to survive in the middle/lower regions of the table. In 1979 second division football beckoned again.

Regaining their place in the top flight was to take four years — Mechelen's return coinciding with the ascendency to the presidency of John Cordier. He looked across the border with Holland to find the man with the pedigree to make Mechelen great. De Mos had, in fact, just entered Ajax to the 1985 Dutch title when he found his services no longer required — the players effectively forcing his departure.

Within twelve months of his arrival, De Mos turned Mechelen into one of the three leading Belgian club sides. The improvement was astonishing; and the 1986-87 season was to signal Mechelen's arrival as they came within an ace of pulling off a remarkable double.

For the first time since the war, Mechelen, only 10 miles from Brussels, were, in footballing terms, the closest they had been to upsetting mighty Anderlecht. On the penultimate weekend of the league season there was still all to play for.

Mechelen comfortably beat Charleroi 4-2 to maintain the pressure on the defending champions who had scraped through by a single goal against Gent. But the inexperience was soon to show as Mechelen's chance of a play-off disintegrated in Brugge the following week. Mechelen on the one day they needed inspiration were instead found wanting as Brugge won easily 3-1. Anderlecht, meanwhile, thrashed Berchem 5-0.

Certainly, De Mos had fashioned an air-tight defence which gave little away: only 18 goals conceded in 34 games, of which 19 were blanksheets. Conversely Mechelen scored only 57 goals; Anderlecht, on the other hand, scored 82.

But a season which had seen the transition to full-time football for the club was to end on a high note. Against FC Liege in the cup final, Piet Den Boer's first-half goal secured the first piece of silverware under De Mos's command — Europe beckoned.

De Mos had also suggested some crucial signings, none more so than the Israeli international, Eli Ohana, signed from Beiter Jerusalem. He scored crucial goals in this season's Recopa and laid on the Den Boer strike which beat Ajax in the final.

Progress

Dutchman Den Boer had also scored the sole goal in the home leg of the first round match against Dinamo Bucharest after Mechelen had played superbly in the Rumanian capital to win 2-0. Their counter-attacking style was to become a major feature of their progress in Europe.

This was particularly evident after St. Mirren seemed to have done most of the hard work when they came away from Mechelen with a goalless draw in the first leg of their second round match, only to succumb to two well-taken Chana goals at Love Street.

Minsk were next on the agenda losing to a single goal in Belgium scored by Pascal Dewilde. Mechelen, though, again showed their mettle when Chana's 29th minute goal in Minsk effectively settled the tie despite a late flurry from the Soviets which saved the game but not the tie.

Mechelen's defensive qualities were again called on in a semi-final with surprise Italian side, Atalanta, which looked ominous for the Belgian cup holders after they scraped through only 2-1 at home. But refusing to be intimidated by the fiery atmosphere in Bergamo, the Belgians' resolute qualities came to the fore and they won 2-1.

At home they have lost out to Brugge in the championship and fell to Anderlecht in the cup semi-finals. But whatever they have given a potent warning that a new force has emerged in Belgium.

A new 20,000-capacity stadium is currently being built — which it is hoped will be ready for the start of next season — and star striker John Bosman has been signed from Ajax.

Mechelen are no one season wonder!

CUP-WINNERS CUP FINAL

Strasbourg — May 11
Ajax Amsterdam 0
Mechelen 1 (Den Boer 53)
HT: 0-0 **Att:** 39,446 **Ref:** Pauly (WG)

Ajax: Menzo — *Blind, Wouters, Larsson, Verlaat (Maijer 73), Scholten, Van't Schip (Bergkamp 57), Winter, Bosman, Muhren, Rob Witschge. *Blind sent off, 16 min.

Mechelen: Preud' homme — Emmers, Clijsters, Rutjes, Hofkens (Theunis 73), Sanders, De Wilde (Demesmaeker 60), E. Koeman, Deferm, Ohana, Den Boer.

AJAX'S BLIND SENT OFF

from IAIN MACLEOD

ONLY six years after they were languishing in the Belgian second division, the crowning glory of Mechelen's astonishing transformation was reached here when they deprived Ajax of the Cup-winners' Cup.

Piet den Boer's fine headed goal from an Ohana cross just after half time proved the difference in an intriguing final soured by the ordering off of Ajax defender Danny Blind.

The traditional bitterness inherent in the rivalry between Belgium and Holland surfaced on the pitch — though, thankfully not on the terraces — in the 16th minute of an ill-tempered affair.

A Den-Boer-Emmers combination carved up the Ajax defence enabling the latter to go through with only the keeper to beat. Blind, felt he had no other option and crudely felled Emmers in the ultimate illustration of the 'professional' foul.

When matters had calmed down Wester German referee Dieter Pauly showed Blind the red card.

"It was the moment in which the game turned against us," said Ajax's interim coach, Barry Hulshoff. "It was, however, one of those decisions where he might or

ARE MED

by IAIN MACLEOD

Goalkeepers	Born	Previous clubs	Intl
Michel PREUD'HOMME	24.1.59	Standard Liege	Belgium
Pierre DROUGUET	2.6.62	FC Battice, FC Liege	
Defenders			
Raymond JASPERS	31.8.54	Beringen, And'cht, Antwerp	
Karel KESSELAERS	3.9.59	Oelegem	
Gaston BOECKSTAENS	27.9.55	Schriek, Antwerp	
Graeme RUTJES	26.3.60	Portland, Excelsior (Hol)	
Geert DEFERM	6.5.63	Winteslag, Antwerp	
Yves DE GREEF	29.1.62	RWD Molenbeek	
Albert CLUYTENS	16.11.55	Hoboken, Bev'n, And'cht, Antwerp	
Leo CLIJSTERS	6.11.56	Brugge, Tongeren, Waterschei	Belgium
Midfield			
Paul THEUNIS	16.3.52	Beringen, Winterslag, Beveren	Belgium
Koenraad SANDERS	17.12.62	Brugge	
Wim HOFKENS	27.3.58	Willem II, Bev'n, And'cht, Beerschot	Hol
Erwin KOEMAN	20.1.61	Groningen, PSV Eindhoven	Holland
Pascal DE WILDE	1.5.65	Brugge	
Joachim BENFELD	28.5.58	Bayern Munich	
Attack			
Marc EMMERS	25.2.66	Waterschei	
Pieter DEN BOER	17.3.58	Xerxes, Excelsior (Hol)	
Alain DENIL	17.8.66	RWD Molenbeek	
Paul DEMESMAEKER	8.9.63	RWD Molenbeek	
Koenraad WYNS	4.5.64	Anderlecht, Lierse	
Eli OHANA	1.2.64	Beiter Jerusalem	Israel
Erwin METMAN	9.5.66	HS Texas-DHB	

Wim Hofkens

John Bosman

might not have been sent off."

Given the circumstances I felt that there could be no argument against referee Pauly's interpretation — none the less ironic given the niggling tactics employed by Mechelen.

For this was the classic European final of one team who came to win the trophy and the other who came determined not to lose it. It was an intriguing clash of style — attack versus defence — which ended as a genuine contest when Blind went off.

The pre-match build-up remained faithful to the norm for these occasion. Ajax began as favourites, but only marginally, to become the first side to retain the trophy but admitted that the formidable defensive formation which was the cornerstone of Mechelen's game would be a problem.

Mechelen arrived on the Monday morning with coach Aad De Mos, who had spent five years at Ajax stating bluntly that Ajax were not the side they were.

"How can they be," he queried, "they have lost too many good players: van Basten, Rijkaard, Boeve and Silooy."

De Mos believed that Ajax would attack, and that his counter-attacking strategy would create openings for the man he thinks might be, extravagantly in my opinion, the next Ruud Gullit — Israeli international Eli Ohana.

As for Ajax, Hulshoff, in his last match as caretaker coach said they would not deviate from the attacking philosophy ingrained at De Meer. He said: "A final always starts slowly. One side likes to see what the other is doing. But in our kind of play we never do that. We always attack from the start.

"They can play their game and we will play ours: keeping possession, quick passing to each other and much movement. We always want to dictate the tempo of the game."

Ajax at least lived up to their promise to attack while Mechelen were content to soak up the pressure, bait the trap and then pounce on any mistake or indecision within the Dutch ranks.

Mechelen's tactics were evident from the outset: intimidate as much as possible, within the bounds of legality, the young and inexperienced Ajax players who had no desire for a physical confrontation of any kind.

The chances that fell were rarely clear cut. Ajax, though, should have capitalised more on the talents of old-fashioned winger Rob Witschge, who cast his spell in an array of different ways, turning the Belgian defence inside out only to discover that on too many occasion his team mates had left him with too few options.

Witschge periodically livened up the proceedings with some deft touches but found Bosman and Van't Schip unusually ineffective.

Mechelen's rare forays into the Ajax half led to openings and in the 18th minute Ohana set up Koeman in prime position only for the midfielder to miscue his shot.

Nine minute later, de Wilde, who had a superb match, sent in a low cross which led to an almighty scramble in the Ajax box. Den Boer got the chance but failed to capitalise as Larsson and Menzo somehow got the ball to safety.

At the other end a Bosman header which apparently was goalbound was headed over by Rutjes. The interval gave Ajax a welcome opportunity to regroup.

Hulshoff felt that just as Ajax seemed to have weathered the storm they lost the killer goal. After Blind went Ajax had been forced to deploy midfielder Arnold Scholten at right full back and his loss in midfield was compounded by his defence, well marshalled by Larsson, more exposed as the game went on.

The decisive strike occurred in the 52nd minute. Ohana, policed by two defenders out at the left hand corner flag got in a magnificent cross to the near post which the on running Den Boer headed with power and precision into Menzo's bottom right hand corner,

Mechelen were now within reach of their first European trophy and the Ajax response was to replace Van't Schip with Bergkamp. Almost immediately Winter's cross saw Bosman's diving header just elude the left post.

Bergkamp enlivened Ajax and as Sanders earned a booking for blatantly fouling him, Mechelen made clear their intentions of holding on to what they had when they sent on Demesmaeker for de Wilde.

Twenty minutes from the end Ajax showed creativity at its best. In the culmination to a imaginative three-man move, the best of the game, Larsson's pass to Witschge was deftly flicked over the static Belgian defence and the majesty of Bosman's volley from eight yards out was only matched by Preud'homme's cup-winning save.

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BAYER'S FIRST TITLE

from JONATHAN SHALLARD

REMARKABLY it has been eight years since a West German team last won the UEFA Cup. Just as remarkable, Bayer Leverkusen had never won anything in 84 years of existence until Sebastian Losada missed Español's last-chance effort in the penalty shoot-out.

Later on that sad Spanish night, Español coach Javier Clemente wondered about the Leverkusen goalkeeper, Rüdjer Vollborn, and the semaphoric waving of his arms to try to distract the penalty-taker.

It wasn't sour grapes. More the reflections of a man wondering if this was an idea he could profitably use himself back in Spain; just as Clemente, last autumn, had copied the Graeme Souness ploy of trimming the width of the Sarria pitch to contain the UEFA Cup meanderings of Milan's Ruud Gullit.

As each Español player had approached the penalty spot so Vollborn had whirled his arms like a chimpanzee impatient to get to the tea party. Clemente watched, knowing that the keeper was within the letter of the Law.

Vollborn may have blown a raspberry to the spirit but that's something else. Law XIV clearly states that a goalkeeper must not move his feet before the penalty has been taken. But nowhere do the Laws mention what a goalkeeper may do with his arms while keeping his feet firmly planted on the ground.

Truth

So Espanöl went home, thoughtful and disappointed. In truth, they had done well to reach the final at all — it was a pity that the bitter aftermath of defeat in West Germany overshadowed their achievements in seeing off, in stirring fashion, the likes of Borussia Mönchengladbach, Milan, Internazionale and the new Belgian champions, Brugge.

Bayer celebrated in a noisy tour of the city a most dramatic success to delight departing coach Erich Ribbeck. It had looked beyond them at half-time in the second leg, particularly with referee Keizer having disallowed Tita a goal when the Brazilian nipped the ball away from the sleepy Nikono, as the Cameroon goalkeeper was preparing to clear.

Joaquim Peiro, for Inter Milan, got away with that once on a famous occasion against Liverpool keeper Tommy Lawrence in San Siro. The controversy has never quite died away. Keizer clearly did not want to be immortalised in the same clouded way as Ortiz de Mendibil, that night in 1965.

Tita, ultimately, broke the deadlock. Signing the Brazilian towards the end of last year was an enormous gamble but how wonderfully it has paid off. Tita it was who scored Bayer's winner away to Barcelona in the quarter-finals. Now he snapped up a 56th minute goal after a mix-up in the Español defence.

Seven minutes later and the East German exile, Faklo Götz, was scoring with a spectacular diving header. Nine minutes from time and the South Korean veteran, Bum-Kun Cha, had pulled Leverkusen level.

Nothing in extra time, so it was on to penalties.

Even then Leverkusen made their fans suffer when Ralf Falkenmayer missed the Germans' first kick. But Español more than made up with failures by Urquiaga, Zúñigak and, decisively and fatally, Losada.

It was an unfortunate end for the Español forward, who has played a decisive role in a surprisingly clear-cut victory in the first leg in Spain. Yet even then, the omens were there for all to read: the first half had, after all, seen the Germans in the driving seat much of the time.

The technique of Tita and the pragmatism of skipper Wolfgang Rolff looked an ideal partnership. Bayer even come the nearest to scoring, in the 39th minute when a shot from Tita was cleared by Job with Nkono beaten. But that was the beginning of the end for the West Germans.

In the 42nd minute Español captain Diego Orejuela headed home only to see referee Krchnak disallow the 'goal' for offside. Little difference that made. Two minutes later Soler skipped a tackle from Reinhardt on the left and crossed for Losada, embarrassingly unmarked from the Germans point of view, to head Español's first goal.

Lucky

Encouraged, Espanöl tore into Bayer after the interval and were two-up in the 48th minute, although Soler was perhaps lucky — as his low drive beat the diving Vollborn's left hand — that Krchnak did not award Bayer a free kick for offside against Losada, who appeared to be in an 'interfering with play' position.

The Germans were now caught in two minds. Should they attack to try to pull a goal back, or should they sit in defence and gamble on Español not getting through again?

In the event they fell between the two stools and, in the 57th minute, Losada headed a thrilling goal after a right-wing, near-post cross from Ernesto Valverde. It might even have been four, but Jose Maria Gallart's header struck the bar in the 70th minute.

"That's still good enough for us to win the Cup," said Losada, who is on loan to Español from Real Madrid. Little did he know that, in the return, he would be cast as Don Quixote, tilting at a goalkeeper with windmill arms.

UEFA CUP FINAL

Espanöl 3 (Losada 44, 57, Soler 48)
Bayer Leverkusen 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000 **Ref:** Krchnak (Cz)

Espanol: Nkono — Job, Miguel Angel, Iñkai, Urquiaga, Orejuela (Golobart 66), Gallart, Valverde, Soler, Pichi Alsono (Lauridsen 71), Losada. Coach: Javier Clemente.

Bayer: Vollborn — Hinterberger, Rolff, de Kayser, A. Reinhardt, Falkenmayer (K. Reinhardt 70), Buncol, Tita, Täuber, Cha (Götz 18), Waas. Coach: Erich Ribbeck.

2nd leg (May 18)

Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Tita 56, Cötz 63, Cha 81)
Español 0
HT: 0-0. 90min: 3-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref.** Keizer (Hol)
Leverkusen 3-2 on pens: 3-3 agg.

Leverkusen: Vollborn — Rolff, Seckler, Alois Reinhardt, Knut Reinhardt, Buncol, Falkenmayer, Tata (Täuber 62,), Cha, Schreier (Waas 46), Götz. Coach: Erich Ribback.

Español: Nkono — Miguel Angel, Job, Gallart, Golobart (Zuñiga 73), Iñaki, Orejuela (Zubillaga 67), Soler, Uruquiaga, Pichi Alonso, Losada. Coach: Javier Clemente.

WOLFGANG ROLFF . . . so much for the UEFA Cup, now for the European championship

BRIAN GLANVILLE column

WHY GERM IS NO PLA PUT ENGL FANS ON T

IT'S a little hard to know whether the Minister of Sport, Colin (HMV) Moynihan's chief desire is to gain favour with the Prime Minister, to keep English clubs out of Europe, or to achieve the first by virtue of the second.

He has an awful lot to see; sometimes I fear it comes over as a loud, undifferentisted yapping. Little of what he does say suggests that he has any grasp of the subject of football violence, and though he makes a great deal more noise on the subject than his predecessors as Minister of Sport, there is small sign yet that he has risen above their level of political obscurity, not to say mediocrity.

Mr. Moynihan himself had a distinguished sporting career at Oxford, as cox and boxer. But he has no background at all in football, and his response to such occurrences as the violence of the Millwall fans at Highbury on the occasion of that Cup tie with Arsenal, the arrest of a number of England fans at a disco in Paris, have been intemperate and absurdly hasty. In short, he just hasn't made sure of his facts.

Entwined

What he had to say at the end of April about football's connection with hooliganism, identity cards and closed circuit control seemed frankly ridiculous. To lambast football on the grounds that it wrongly claims to have no connection with hooliganism, when hooliganism regularly takes place in and around football stadia each week, was breathtakingly absurd. Of course football and hooliganism are intimately entwined; as I have pointed out before, this is a kind of grotesque, back handed compliment to football, which has seeped into our social fabric, our national consciousness, to such an extent that it provides hooligans with the "perfect" context for tribal violence.

Where does one begin and the other end? And what does football do about it? If Mr. Moynihan can tell it, it would doubtless be deeply obliged. Even sociologists can be right at times, and I readily accept the view — having after proposed it myself long before they got round to it — that violence is a kind of protest of the lower orders against their "marginalisation", frustration and insignificance.

Twenty odd years ago, I was calling it The Revenge of the D Stream. To say that the roughnecks who cause havoc abroad, killed people in Heysel, bring terror to tubes and trains and High Streets are not "real" fans begs the question: What *is* a real fan?

You and I, gentle reader, would no doubt categorise him as somebody who puts football first. To the hooligan "fan," fighting the fans of other clubs and countries is an essential badge of his identity. Indeed, he has been known to come back from creating mayhem abroad claiming that he has done something for his country!

I don't intend to spend much time on the fallacies of the identity card scheme, reciprocal or otherwise, so dear to Mr. Moynihan; the kind of easy, imposed, crude panacea which politicians delight in. Suffice it that senior policemen all over the country, men who know far more about the situation and its dangers than I do, have condemned the plan as being not only useless but sometimes even dangerous. I myself remain in favour of a ban on away fans, which in some respects may seem still more extreme than an identity card scheme; but believing that an ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure, and believing Deep Throat from the terraces who himself advocated the plan — convinced that things *outside* the stadia this season are worse than ever — I stand by it.

That Mr. Moynihan, in effect, will be given the last word by UEFA on whether English clubs be readmitted after the Euro Championship, fills me with neither joy nor optimism. Everything he has said, the whole thrust of his pronouncements, suggest that he feels they should stay out. He may well be right; in fact I think he is, but I reiterate that he and UEFA are wrong to make England fans, i.e. the Euro Championship, the final criterion.

Moreover, there is still no sign at all that the British Government are doing anything of significance to help football help itself, in Europe; to prevent known thugs from travelling to games there. I am glad that some fellow correspondents are now taking up the idea I proposed to a sympathetic Ted Croker (no, I won't gloat over the fact that nice old Argentine Admiral Lacoste is being investigated for peculation in the 1978 World Cup) two years ago and more.

That's to say, that the emphasis on dealing with hooliganism should ideally be placed on Europe and its clubs; forbidding any presence of visiting English supporters. If they go, they still continue to get drunk and make a damned nuisance of themselves. To say the least.

Not that I expect anything cogent, helpful or coherent from UEFA in any field; as the Koeman Case has recently illustrated. Readers of these columns will not need me, nor want me, to rehearse the endless instances in which UEFA's disciplinary arm has been inconsistent, negligent or downright perverse; from the Lobo-Solti case onwards.

Koeman, you'll recall, got into hot water for a shameful statement he was alleged to have made to a Dutch magazine, praising a team mate for putting Jean Tigana, the Bordeaux key-man, out of the game, in the quarter-finals. PSV fined and suspended Koeman themselves, which looked fairly significant. UEFA slapped a massive three match ban on him.

What came next was thoroughly predictable. Koeman insisted that he'd never really said it, the magazine itself ate dirt and pleaded guilty to misquoting him, the president of the Dutch federation made a powerful protest. All right, said UEFA, we'll hear the appeal in May. That's no good, said Koeman and PSV; the return game against Real Madrid in the semi-finals is imminent.

Judgement

So down climbed UEFA, giving us the ridiculous phenomenon of an appeal actually heard in Switzerland on the morning of the match. As we all know, the judgement was a massive quivocation. The sentence was cut to one match instead of three, enabling Koeman to participate in the Final, if (as they did) PSV could come through the second leg semi-finals without him.

I don't think Koeman himself emerges from all this smelling of roses. Even if one wholly accepts what he said he did, it scarcely shows him in a beguiling light; the less so as he, surely, is a footballer who prevails through skill, speed and intelligence, rather than any kind of physical chicanery. But there we are.

MANY CE TO LISH RIAL

Terry Phelan of Wimbledon outjumps Liverpool's Ray Houghton during the FA Cup Final.

Talking of physical chicanery, even the Italian football Press came down like a ton of bricks on their erstwhile hero Gianluca Vialli, excoriating him for the displeasing brawl (as described by the *Corriere dello Sport*) which took place in the dressing room corridor after the so called friendly in Luxembourg last April.

Shouting, "I'll kill you, I'll kill you!" the Italian striker — the word seems appropriate — pursued and twice clobbered the Luxembourg defender, Carlo Weis who, it is true, had subjected him to some very rough usage during the match.

The two of them fell wrestling to the ground, another Luxembourg player came to Weis's rescue, Vialli was eventually hauled away by no less a figure than Gigi Riva, who threatened to whack him, himself, if he didn't behave.

The *Corriere dello Sport* wagged a stern finger at Vialli and told him that now he was an international star and a marked man, what happened to him in Luxembourg was nothing to what he could expect on the larger stage of competitive international football. A chilling thought.

ENGLAND'S tactical failure in Budapest that same day — they came through strongly in the last half-hour, but should have been dead and buried by then — led to some interesting speculation on what strategy they should adopt.

In *The Times* David Miller, a veteran of the last eight World Cups, strongly suggested that it was time to embrace the system made popular in the 1986 tournament in Mexico; a sweeper operating behind two markers.

I'm not really convinced, partly because I think man to man marking and sweeper systems are alien to English footballers, partly because I know the zonal game can still be made to work. Note, please, that in Italy this season it has been most successfully practised by Arrigo Sacchi's Milan, who made up ground on Naples so impressively in the concluding weeks of the championship. Roma and Fiorentina are among others who have turned their back on the old entrenched orthodoxy of *catenaccio*.

Oddly enough, the Hungarian Olympic team, which used the sweeper and two marker method against France in the curtain raiser to the England game that afternoon, were all over the place defensively, constantly giving deserts of space to the French on their unguarded right flank.

In the second half in Budapest, England's hitherto rigid tactics began to work as soon as the injured Pearce gave way to Gary Stevens at left-back.

Stevens may have no usable left foot, but he at once came forward eagerly into attack, disconcerting the Hungarians, and when Hoddle arrived and Waddle went off, the music changed radically.

No longer was the four men midfield limited by the fact that it had two almost permanently wide players, easy to pick up — and with Waddle so clearly short of match practice. Hoddle's presence meant that the ball winged its way into spaces which had previously gone unexploited, causing the Hungarian defence to twist and turn. With him were two other central midfielders, Bryan Robson and Steve McMahon, capable of winning the ball.

I don't think any tactic is, per se, ineffective or obsolete, provided it comes within the bounds of logic. Look how long the old, attacking centre-half survived in Europe and South America, long after the third back stopper had taken over in English football.

And in the current sweeper-with-two markers defence, what are the attacking full backs but reincarnations of the old, attacking wing halves, who prevailed in football before the W formation came along.

MILAN PIP NAPOLI

From JANE NOTTAGE

MILAN are Champions of Italy after a thrilling finale in which defending title holders Napoli finally collapsed in an orgy of internal back-stabbing.

Milan won the title for president Silvio Berlusconi; but Napoli also lost it by allowing the pressure to weaken their resolve, their nerve and their self-control.

It was like a rerun of the American Civil War — a confrontation between North and South. Once again, the North came out on top.

As Ruud Gullit pulled the strings, as Marco Van Basten came back from injury in decisive support, as Pietro Paolo Virdis grabbed vital goals, so Napoli saw their grip on the league leadership threatened seriously for the first time in two seasons.

Napoli's harassed coach, Ottavio Bianchi, said: "Once I had a great team and a great Maradona. Now all I have is a great Maradona."

Rino Marchesi — facing the press.

Style

Napoli allowed Milan to overtake them when Gullit and Co won the 'Match of the Season' by 3-2 in thrilling style in front of a jam-packed 74,000 stunned Napoli tifosi in the Stadio San Paolo.

An apparently impregnable lead had been obliterated. Remember, too, that Milan had even had to overcome that a tavolino reverse, when their 1-0 home victory over Roma in December was turned into 2-0 defeat because Roma keeper Tancredi had been felled by a firework.

At one stage Napoli had been five points clear. By the time the rivals met in the San Paolo that lead had been cut to one point. But still Napoli appeared to hold the trump cards. They were at home and they were still in the lead.

In the end that only spurred Milan's ambition and courage. Milan came, saw and conquered and the Naples fans generously cheered them from the pitch.

Virdis had shot Milan ahead only for Maradona to equalise just before half-time with one of his famous free kicks. From 25 yards he chipped the ball over the top of the wall and into the top left-hand corner of the net, leaving goalkeeper Giovanni Galli helpless.

Control

Into the second half, however, it was Milan who gained in confidence and began to wrest control.

Gullit set up both their goals. First he crossed towards Van Basten and though the other Dutchman could not reach the ball, Virdis did! The third goal was scored by Van Basten. He was ready and waiting this time for Gullit's cross.

Napoli were down but not out. A few minutes before the end Careca pulled a goal back. But it was too late. Now, instead of Napoli leading by a point, it was Milan who had pushed them out of the driver's seat.

Two matches to go, a difference of one point but a chasm of difference in morale. Napoli epitomise the city and its people. This is a squad of passion and sporadic brilliance laced with periods of indecision.

Losing to Milan at home was too much. They fell apart and fell apart noisily and publicly. The next Sunday they went to Florence to play Fiorentina and lost. It was too much.

Maradona was out through injury and someone had to take the blame. The players turned against coach Bianchi. They issued a written statement declaring that no-one got on with him and he hadn't done his job properly.

The press had a field day. Accusation followed accusation and then the fans decided to get involved, taking the part of the manager rather than the players whom, they felt, had let them down.

One group of supporters called for everyone to boycott San Paolo for the last match of the season against Sampdoria. Belatedly, General Manager Luciano Moggi, took action, cancelling training and calling all players, one by one, into his office to hear their side of the story.

Then the club made its decision to support the manager and drop the mutiny leaders, goalkeeper Garella, striker Giordano, midfielder Bagni and defender Ferrario.

Maradona's position was unclear. On the day the players declared war on Bianchi he sent his personal masseur to inform the club that he wouldn't be attending training, then disappeared with family and friends for a little jaunt in the half-million pound 'boat' put at his disposal by a wealthy admirer.

Little wonder that, on the last day of the season, Napoli blew it again. A 2-1 home defeat by Sampdoria wrecked their outside hopes of earning a title play-off. Napoli needed victory to pull level and rely on Milan losing at Como. Instead Napoli lost and Milan drew 0-0.

Maradona's consultation was Italy's top goal scorer award for his 15 goals, some of which will never be forgotten. Not even Gullit can match his individual skill and ability.

But on balance Milan deserved to win their 11th championship for commericial TV magnat Berlusconi.

Milan compete in the Champion's Cup next season, Napoli in the UEFA cup alongside Roma, Inter and one other.

The final place is the subject of a play off between Torino and Juventus.

Mathematically Sampdoria had already qualified for the UEFA Cup but their 3-2 overall win over Torino in the Italian Cup Final means they qualify for the Cup winner's cup.

If Juventus slip up in the UEFA Cup, they will be out in the European cold for the first time.

Glory

Likely candidate as new coach is Gigi Maifredi, at present leading Bologna into Serie A. His leadership of Bologna had impressed Juventus President Boniperti who perhaps hoped that he might turn into a Arrigo Sacchi and lead Juventus back to glory.

Two teams go down to Serie B. Empoli, who started the season with a five point penalty due to 'game fixing', and Avellino who, after ten years in Serie A, drop back down to Serie B.

Looking forward to the World Cup, there's still chaos and confusion over the likely state of certain stadia — in particular in Rome, Turin and Florence and arguments over the planned television centre.

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THE WORLD'S LARGEST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL AGENCY

Giresse quits at Marseille

By ANDRE DUCLOS

THE time of the transfers has come, and clubs are busily fishing in European and South American waters. The time of retirement too; such as that of the splendid Alain Giresse, concluding with Marseille not with Bordeaux.

Gyorgy Bognar, the Hungarian attacker, is expected to leave MTK of Budapest for Toulon, the move having been facilitated by Laszlo Balint, who once upon a time used to play libero for Toulouse but is now, of course, team manager of Hungary.

Eric Cantona is leaving Auxerre for Marseille, not for Matra Racing, who have had such a disappointing season; which naturally led Roma to hope they would be able to lure the Uruguayan star Enzo Francescoli to the Eternal City (though he may now go to Sampdoria). Meanwhile Monaco, who had been looking at centre-forwards elsewhere in Europe, had to decide whether to let homesick Mark Hateley go.

An excellent deal would seem to be Montpellier's capture of 27-year-old Carlos Valderrama, star of last summer's South American Cup, bought from his Colombian club of Deportivo Cali. With his blond dreadlocks and his equally flowing style, this attacking midfielder could pull a great many fans, and would be an excellent foil to the amazing Roger Milla. At 37, the Cameroon international remains wonderfully effective for both club and country.

As you will know, new dispensations have been bruited in France, whereby each team may now field four foreign players, but Africans will now be counted as such, where in the past they have been classified as French citizens provided they came from former French colonies. Swings and roundabouts, you might say.

Bognar, 26, has signed a three year contract for Toulon, with the option of another two. He impressed Toulon's manager Courbis when he saw him play a club match against Nice, during the winter break. If Toulon can only hang on to the gifted young inside-forward David Gioola, next season, they could make an interesting pair.

A sharp exchange between Fernando Chalana, back again in action after such a long absence, with Benfica, and Aimé Jacquet, still manager of Bordeaux, where Chalana had a short, unhappy time. Chalana alleged in a recent interview that Jacquet tended to be overruled by his directors, and that for this reason, he was dropped from the second leg of the European Cup semi-final against Juventus three years ago.

They'd objected, according to Chalana, to the presence of his wife, Anabela, on the plane to Turin, for the first leg.

An angry Jacquet has dismissed all this as "lies," retorting that Chalana was left out for tactical reasons.

Werder Bremen clinch title

by ARTHUR ROTMIL

WERDER BREMEN stormed as expected to their first league championship title in 23 years and their second overall.

Otto Rehhagel's team proved the most consistent and benefited from the fluctuating fortunes of their rivals, especially the holders Bayern Munich, who in addition to loss of form by several regulars were also plagued by internal strife.

Coach Jupp Heynckes and general manager Uli Hoeness do not see eye to eye and there have been been rumours that Heynckes' days on the banks of the Isar are numbered. A classic example was the decision to axe Jean-Marie Pfaff.

The 33-year-old goalkeeper has now been given what amounts to marching orders by Bayern together with centre back Norbert Eder, 32. Yet, only a few weeks earlier Heynckes assured Pfaff: "You are the No. 1."

Obviously he wasn't for Hoeness, who appears to wield the big stick and is certainly in charge of financial expenditure, on players.

It is still not clear who is coming and who is going. The proposed engagement of the Algerian Rabah Madjer appears more and more distant; Mark Hughes is reportedly being wooed by his former club Manchester United who are prepared to pay Barcelona £1.5 million for him — Bayern are not.

They have signed a Norwegian centre back, Erland Johnssen from Moss FK who surprisingly won the championship. He cost only £100,000 — in contrast to the record domestic fee being paid for international midfielder Olaf Thon, of relegated Schalke.

International defender Andy Brehme is leaving Munich for an, as yet unnamed, Italian club. He said: "I am disenchanted with Bayern. The city of Munich is great, but within the playing squad there are differences, too many players are trouble makers and stir up problems behind one's back. Nobody has the courage to come out in the open with his grievances."

Brehme has also been critical of Heynckes who "has continually asked me to play in an unaccustomed position."

Bayern are incidentally the biggest sports club in West Germany with a registered membership of 11,038. They are followed by Post-SV Nürnberg (10,657), VfL Sinderlfingen (9,102), SSV Ulm (9,004) and Bayer Leverkusen (8,057).

A tale of woe is reported from Hamburg. They have no international prospects, a hefty deficit and internal rows. The first year without the Austrian team manager Ernst Happel began under an unfortunate omen. A chain of unlucky, but also unexplained transactions deeply disturbed the managerial and playing personnel.

The dismissal of goalkeeper Uli Stein following his punch on an opponent in the Super cup game and the signing of the two Yugoslavs Josip Skoblar (team manager) and Mladen Pralija (keeper), have accentuated the demise of the "Hanseats".

Nothing changed when Willi Reimann took over the reins. HSV's president Ernst Naumann said: "I think we can return to the old glories under Reimann."

But he too, must now recognise that the club will have to completely readjust its attitude.

General manager Felix Magath, the former international, admits: "We'll have to rejuvenate the team as soon as possible."

He knows that Hamburg's fans will not tolerate a mediocre side. He supports the president and explains: "Under his predecessor Dr. Wolfgang Klein, I was constantly pestered and couldn't do my job properly. With Naumann I have a fine working relationship".

Despite this declaration of solidarity the situation in Hamburg is more confused than ever. Magath, too, has his critics. Hamburg, short of some £700,000, are determined to invest in new players. They would like to engage Danish Player of the Year John Jensen and the future of the Pole Miroslaw Okonski has assumed absolute priority.

The slump in attendance to 17,000 per match has hit HSV hard. Bank loans, sponsors and benefactors are expected to launch the "new" HSV financially.

Three Poles are being linked with Bundesliga clubs. Jacek Grembocki a defender from Gornik Zabrze who interests Schalke, Jan Furtok a striker from GKS Katowice who's wanted by Dortmund and the league's top scorer Marek Lesniak (Pogon Szczecin) who is apparently all set to join Bayer Leverkusen; he would cost £200,000 — bargain at that price.

Gates were down in the Bundesliga. In the first half of the season they stood at 21,670 per match. In the recent series they averaged only 16,500.

Oliver Reck of Werder Bremen.

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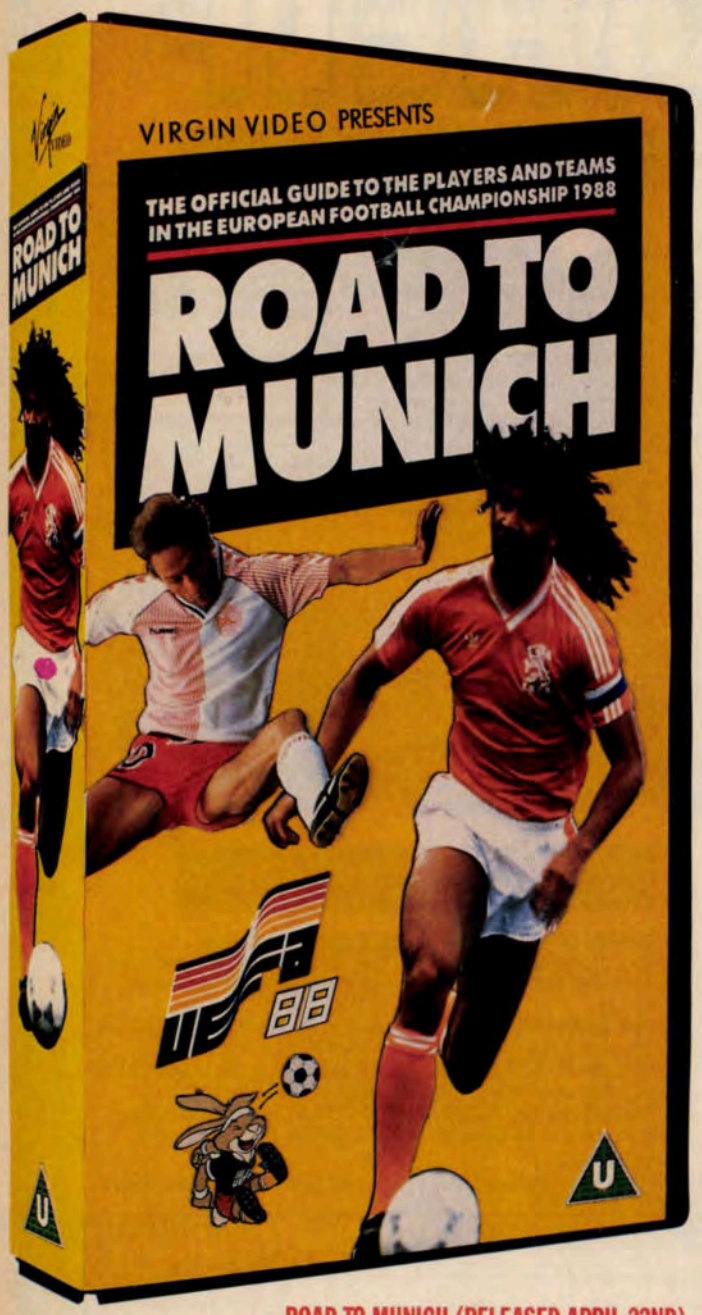

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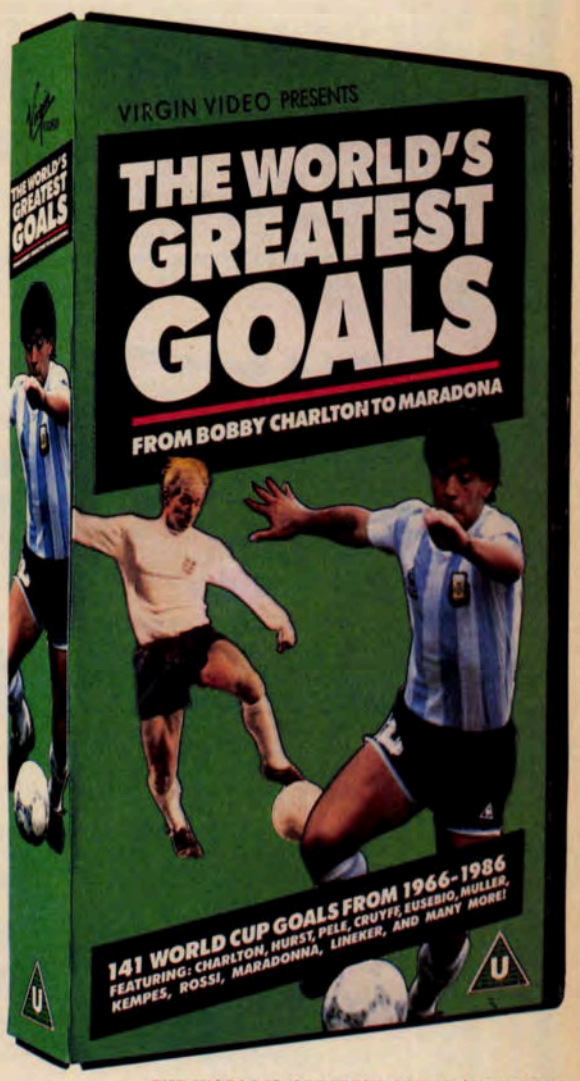

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DOUBLE FOR EINDHOVEN

From SIMON KUPER

PSV EINDHOVEN completed the league and cup double when they beat Roda Kerkrade to take the Dutch Cup. Earlier they had won the league title, nine points ahead of second-placed Ajax.

PSV won the cup final 3-2 after extra time. In Tilburg on May 12 Roda took the lead twice, but two goals by fullback Eric Gerets and one by Soren Lerby decided the game. Roda will enter next season's European Cup-winners Cup, because PSV will, of course, be defending the European Cup.

European football will console Roda for a miserable season. At the start they were aiming for third place, but as it turned out they only saved themselves from relegation in their last league match. AZ Alkmaar will go down instead.

AZ were unlucky to be relegated. They had 28 points from 34 matches, normally enough for a position almost half-way up the table.

Moreover, they suffered from a deal that had clearly been struck between PEC Zwolle and Volendam.

These two teams played each other on the last day of the season, each needing a point to avoid relegation. The match ended (surprise, surprise) in a 0-0 draw, neither team making any attempt to cross the half-way line.

Skilful

The managers of the two clubs hardly bothered to deny accusations of 'fixing'.

FC Den Haag and DS Dordrecht will go down with AZ. DS's relegation was always a foregone conclusion, but Den Haag are a skilful, experienced side.

Players like Martin Jol (ex-WBA), Heini Otto (ex-Middlesbrough) and Irish international Mick Byrne are more than good enough for Holland's premier division.

Den Haag owe relegation mainly to their hooligan fans. Crowd violence reached a peak at a match against Ajax last March, when dozens of people were wounded in stampedes and it was sheer good luck that nobody was killed.

Straight away Den Haag's attendances dropped by almost half, and there was talk of the club having to withdraw from the league. Players from other clubs refused to join Den Haag, afraid of the bombs that fans there often threw onto the pitch.

Journalists came to Den Haag in hordes, but never to ask questions about football. All this demoralised the team, and relegation was the result.

At the other end of the premier division there is still one place in the UEFA Cup to fill. Ajax Amsterdam have already qualified for that tournament, but play-offs will decide who is to join them. The clubs contesting the play-offs are Twente Enschede, Willem II Tilburg, VVV Venlo and Groningen.

Sixth

This means that Feyenoord, Holland's biggest club, have failed to qualify for European football.

Feyenoord finished sixth in the table. It was the first time since 1982 that the top three teams in the Dutch league were not PSV, Ajax and Feyenoord. This year Twente were third, with 41 points from 34 matches.

Feyenoord's poor form throughout the season reached unheard-of levels at the end: they lost six of their last seven matches. Feyenoord have now realised that something is very wrong.

They have drastically reformed the structure of the club. Hans Kraay has been appointed as general manager, and he will supervise manager Rinus Israel.

Kraay intends to go into next season with a completely new team. He has already made several signings: Tom Krommendijk and Paul Nortan have come from AZ, Martin van Geel from Roda, and Wlodzimierz Smolarek from Eintracht Frankfurt.

Sponsors paid for these transfers, because Feyenoord's paltry attendances would hardly finance a 40-year-old amateur. Feyenoord averaged barely 10,000 spectators a match this season. Embarrassingly, their stadium has a capacity of 55,000.

As late as the mid-1970s Feyenoord were drawing average crowds of 40,000. At the time it was said that if the chairman and the secretary were to play cards in the centre-circle, half of Rotterdam would turn up to cheer.

Feyenoord's ancient rivals Ajax are also down to about 10,000 spectators. When they had to play Haarlem behind closed doors, as a punishment for crowd violence at the match against PSV in February, the stands looked only slightly emptier than they had been all season.

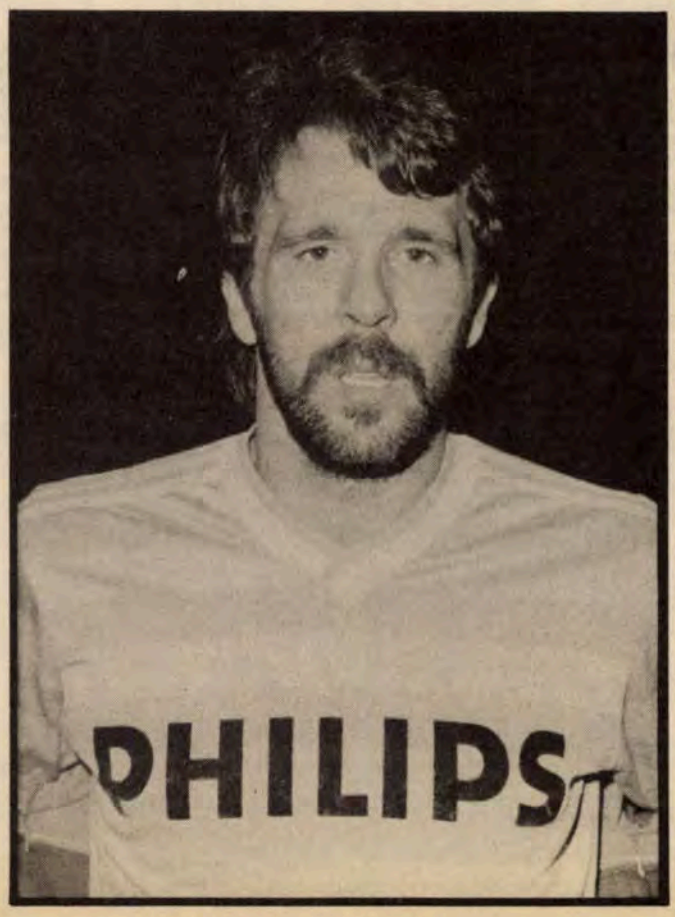
Poor year

Ajax have had a poor year, despite finishing runners-up in the Cup-winners' Cup. They played without their old sparkle, especially after Johan Cruyff resigned as manager in December. (He has since signed a one-year contract with Barcelona.)

Neither Ajax nor PSV will be much improved next year. Both clubs have signed a couple of good Dutch club players, who are not going to startle world football.

Ajax have bought centre-half Hans Werdekker from Willem II and Ron Willems from Twente Enschede. Werdekker, though already 28, was playing amateur football only a year ago.

PSV have signed Stan Valckx from VVV Venlo and Hendrie Kruzen (who at least is an international) from Den Bosch.



ERIC GERETS . . . PSV's two-goal cup hero.

BRUGGE ARE NEW BELGIUM CHAMPS

CLUB BRUGGE have emerged as new Belgian champions.

They put the disappointment of their extra-time UEFA Cup exit against Espanol behind them to string together four consecutive victories to open a decisive three-point gap over the rest of the pack.

Brugge's fine UEFA Cup run had restored some of the faded glory and the championship win was deserving reward for a side which place the emphasis on attack.

Antwerp, too, have been fashioned in this mould. But the side which created such a stir earlier in the season still has much to learn about life at the top as their 6-0 thrashing by Anderlecht illustrated.

European success became the priority for Mechelen, who began to struggle against the lesser lights. A single goal defeat at home to Liege was a case in point and though Mechelen recovered to record victories over Beerschot and Molenbeek successive goalless draws away to Winterslag and home to Waregem enabled Brugge to go clear.

● IAIN MACLEOD

SPITEFUL UEFA

says BRIAN GLANVILLE

UEFA's decision to treat Welsh, Scots and Irish players playing for English clubs as "foreigners" is at once logical and perverse. Also, I think, rather spiteful.

In a sense, our football has been hoist with its own petard. What UEFA are, in effect, saying is, for decades you British have told us you are entitled to four separate international teams when it comes to World Cups or European Championships. Very well, the logical corollary of that is that any Welshman, Irishman or Scotsman who plays for an English team comes from a separate country.

If you follow the rationale of the thing through, it is undeniable, but it also seems to me deeply perverse. For there is no such thing as a fully professionalised Welsh League, while the two Irish Leagues are alas flimsy affairs, which can never offer their players the scope or the rewards they can achieve across the Irish sea. Scotland, especially with Rangers splashing their money about, is now rather another matter; though it did not use to be.

The effect of the new dispensation, however, will certainly be to put English clubs at a disadvantage, vis-à-vis those on the continent, to the extent that before they field any genuine foreign player in a European Cup game, they will have to be sure that there are no more than three players in the side from Wales, Scotland or Ireland. It would hit Liverpool especially hard. After all, it wasn't long ago that it was very hard to find a single English player in the Liverpool team. Hansen, Dalglish, Souness, Lawrenson, Rush, Grobbelaar, and so on. What would have been the fate of that splendid side which not so long ago dominated the European Cup?

The equivalence between British players from outside England and foreign players from outside the British Isles is a palpably false one, in any but the narrow terms of football. Could this be an underhand attempt by UEFA to force Britain, at last, to field a single representative team?

I repeat, there is logic in a move, but it is a perverse and dubious one.

JACQUES GEORGES (UEFA president): "The British FAs want four votes on the international bodies and want to enter four teams in European championships and World Cups. So they must be regarded as four separate federations. We cannot differentiate — and they are not alone with their problems."

DAVID WILL (UEFA executive member): "If there is total freedom of movement of players — and everyone thinks it is going to come — UEFA cannot control that. But the European Commission cannot tell a Swiss based organisation such as UEFA what do to . . . It's better to protect the development of young footballers in each country than to have all of our clubs overstaffed by foreign players. We have been looking for something like this for some time and I thought long and hard about it. It is far better to agree to this than to comply with freedom of movement within the European Economic Community. I realise it will cause complications for our game in the short term but I am convinced it will be in the best long-term interest of our associations. I agree there is a small problem with Wales, which has no national league, but that it is an anomaly which UEFA plans to iron out."

SPOKESMAN for European Commissioners Peter Sutherland: "Any rule or practice which restricts competition within the Common Market is incompatible. Players have the right to work whereever they choose under community law and UEFA cannot stop them."

TREVOR HARTLEY (Reader in Law at the London School of Economics): "Professional sport is covered by the European Community treaty and is therefore subject to EC rules, specifically Article 48. Any challenge to the rule would, in my opinion, succeed."

BERT MILLICHIP (FA chairman): "We would have to think carefully about the consequences of any appeal. It is vital we keep our four votes in the council chambers of international football and our four teams in World Cups and in European championships."

JEAN JATENBEIN (Luxembourg representative on UEFA): "A British solution will have to be found. This is my personal view, but the British set-up has existed in its current form for a long time and it should continue to exist as it is for a long time."

GRAHAM KELLY (League secretary): "It's worrying. This could have serious implications and repercussions for our clubs if we get back into Europe — particular with a lot of English players overseas anyway."

TED CROKER (FA secretary): "It will certainly change the style of squads considerably. Managers will want to be consistent in their selections. It is a far-reaching change and will need careful consideration. It will not help smaller nations, many of whom are strong precisely because they have players in other countries.

GUUS HIDDINK (PSV Eindhoven coach): "It's a stupid decision. It totally contradicts the aim of Europe and is the kind of thing which pushes attitudes on the continent back to those of the mid-19th century. If they had that rule now I'd lose half my team. They are going to have a lot of protests and problems with this. It won't be good for the British teams — with all their nationalities — and it's very bad for European soccer in general. The European Community plans to open its barriers by 1992 and UEFA does the opposite. It's a backward step."

IRVING SCHOLAR (Tottenham chairman): "I will be surprised if UEFA can enforce it. But if they do it may make players more keen to play for England rather than countries like Wales or Ireland."

MARTIN EDWARDS (Manchester United chairman): "At least the delay in implementation gives us time to rethink our buying and scouting policies. This might help develop more top English players but, frankly, the public wants to see the best so I'm not sure it would be a good thing. Our first concern, anyway, is to get back into Europe."

DAVE BEASANT saves John Aldridge's penalty: the decisive moment in Wimbledon's 1-0 FA Cup triumph over Liverpool and their six 'foreigners'.

CRISIS FOR NUNEZ

from DUNCAN SHAW

THE Spanish season drew to a close with far more action and interest off the field than on it.

By the end of March, the twin giants had divided up the trophies in the traditional way: Real Madrid with the league title, and Barcelona with the cup. The only undecided issues were the UEFA Cup and relegation places.

But since then, it's the off-field drama rather the battle to go into Europe or to stay in the top flight which have captured all the headlines. And, as usual, the most dramatic clubs have been Barcelona and Athletico Madrid.

Barça are emerging from their deepest crisis since 1980, when Helenio Herrera was surprisingly brought back as coach. Just three weeks after picking up the cup, the whole Barça first-team squad — with the exceptions of Bernd Schuster and Gary Lineker — signed a document demanding the resignation of president Nunez and his board.

The players' grievances were threefold. First, that Nunez had ceased to have any personal contact with them, culminating in his failure to enter the dressing room to congratulate them after the cup final.

Debts

Secondly, that the president had no intention of helping them pay off their tax debts incurred over several years.

And thirdly — although this was only implicitly rather than explicitly stated — that the club was treating coach Luis so badly, publicly lining up Johan Cruyff to replace him.

Most of the "socios", however, seemingly had little sympathy. Indeed, the team was even jeered when they ran out at Nou Camp to take on Real Madrid. This came to an abrupt halt, of course, when Carrasco gave Barça the lead in only the second minute, after the Madridistas had failed to clear the first corner of the match. Real — having sewed up their third successive title the week earlier with a 6-0 destruction of Betis — never seemed interested in the match, and it came as no surprise when Lineker wrapped it up at 2-0 shortly after the interval.

But this win did nothing to reduce conflict at Nou Camp. The following night, the Barça players angrily attacked Nunez's emissary, vice-president Joan Gaspart in a nationwide television debate.

The following week, veterans Alesanco, Carrasco and Julio Alberto went as far as to hint that they'd be asking to leave in the summer if Nunez' reign continued.

Then came the training-ground scuffle between Alesanco and Schuster, and the announcement that the West German's season had finished, with the pretext of his wife giving birth.

And so the defeat of Madrid — his destination, ironically — proved to be Schuster's last match for Barça, bringing to a close a stormy eight-year connection in which trouble was never far from the surface.

Waters

The tension at Nou Camp reached its peak with the arrival of Johan Cruyff, on the same day as Espanol were thrashing Bayer Leverkusen 3-0 just down the road.

Months of speculation were ended by the Dutchman signing a one-year contract worth approximately half a million pounds. He did little to pour oil on troubled waters, immediately stating that the players who did not respect the president ought to start looking for a new club.

This is just what Luis himself has allegedly been doing, with Valencia and Zaragoza the interested parties.

There has been a similar crisis at Atleticao Madrid, albeit slightly less dramatic.

There players are also up in arms against another controversial president, Jesus Gil, who has also responded by appointing a new coach — in this case, Jose Maria Maguregui — with orders to either bring the "troublemakers" under control, or to throw them out.

At the top of the second division, Malaga — with former Madrid star Juanito in inspirational form — celebrated promotion in the traditional Spanish way: by sacking coach Ladislao Kubala!

AUSTRIA

SEVERAL "oldtimers" have chosen to continue their careers in Austria's lower division football, like the former Northern Ireland international captain Sammy McIlroy, 33, (Mödling) and the Soviet star Oleg Blokhin (Vorwärts Steyr), while the Hungarian Marton Esterhazy, 31, quit Panathinaikos (Greece) to sign for Austria Salzburg.

But a real transfer coup was landed by FK Austria, who are still banking on the Hungarian ex-international Tibor Nyilasi, but have now delighted their fans by the acquisition of the Argentinian striker Jose Percudani, only 23.

He made his name in the world club championship decider in December 1984, when he scored the winner for Independiente against Liverpool in the 1-0 triumph in Tokio and was voted man of the match.

FK can now also field the Dutch-born Schinkels. He is no longer the third foreigner because he obtained Austrian nationality. He links well with Percudani who cost £530,000 and is already repaying the Austrians with some spectacular goals.

FK's defender Anton Pfeffer (it means pepper), nicknamed "Rambo", has made the breakthrough into the national side. He celebrated a fine debut in Austria's 1-0 win over European Championship finalists Denmark in Vienna.

It was also a most welcome victory for national team manager Josef Hickersberger who is building a new side for the World Cup qualifiers, due to start in the autumn.

Team of the moment are Vienna. They too, have a new international in Andy Herzog (it means Duke), just 19, but already a midfield schemer. After only four games for his club he was also promoted into the national squad.

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Left: PIERRE LITTBARSKI

SPOTLIGHT ON WEST GERMA

FRA CO

NO other country can point to such a marvellous run in the European championships as West Germany. They won the title in 1972 and 1980 and were finalists in 1976, losing only in the penalty shoot-out.

Now they are rated favourites to win again, not least because of home advantage. But it is a role they dislike, since according to their experts it makes their team complacent, not to say arrogant.

The form of the side which has been rebuilt and rejuvenated since the Mexico World Cup two years ago has not been convincing in the preparatory friendlies.

Though most Germans are banking on their team's renowned ability to raise their game in important tournaments, there are enough warning voices which should be heeded, if only because the group opponents are, on recent results, an extremely tough lot.

Against Italy, for example, the Germans have never yet won a competitive match. Spain are the last nation to knock them out of the European championships (1984), while Denmark beat them in the Mexico World Cup group game.

Team chief Franz Beckenbauer is also cautious in his predictions, for he knows that his team is not really the best he could muster. No fewer than five players who could strengthen his hand cannot be considered.

The two most experienced keepers, Harold Schumacher and Uli Stein, were both expelled from the squad for unsavoury behaviour, defenders Karl Heinz Forster and Hans-Peter Briegel no longer wish to represent their country and that wayward star schemer Bernd Schuster has rejected several overtures to return to national colours.

Once upon a time, the Germans played for their country for nothing — they were proud to wear the emblem with the black eagle. Now, even a hefty fee is not enough to tempt some of the spoiled stars.

Nothing illustrates the complete reorganisation of the side better than the fact that, out of the 13 players who performed in the World Cup final less than two years ago, only five are still considered for selection. It is not easy to find new international stars, even if the Bundesliga is regarded as one of the strongest in the world.

Beckenbauer had to replace several key men who commanded respect and had enormous experience. In the first 12 internationals since Mexico, no fewer than 14 newcomers made their international debuts. But only one can claim to have secured a regular place — centre back Jurgen Kohler.

Otherwise it was continually a new mixture from one game to another; new formations, new hopes, but also new disappointments.

"Experience shows that the so-called ideal eleven only materialises during a tournament," says Beckenbauer, more in hope than conviction. The 3-1 win over England last September was their best match and the display was greeted with standing ovations and a wave of euphoria in the media.

Of course, everybody wanted to know if this was the German team to start the European championships. The team chief warned that there was still a lot of work to be done, though even he couldn't know that the subsequent performances would be largely unconvincing.

The side is still short of a midfield 'general', a schemer who would guide them through difficult phases.

Klaus Allofs, the captain who has been ruled out after a cartilage operation, wasn't the right man anyway. Nor is Rudi Voller, the top marksman on whom so much depends in attack. Rudi has been plagued by injuries for the past two years and his transfer to Roma only added to his problems.

Beckenbauer and his assistant Holger Osieck have been trying since Mexico to field technically superior players. The Mexico team was above all known for its fighting spirit, determination and stamina and relied on counter-attacking.

Playing at home the Germans will be expected to take the initiative and demonstrate their skill. Littbarski and Thon are their main hopes in this sphere.

Beckenbauer prays that hopes will not be quite so high as, for example, they were in 1974, when all Germany expected to win the World Cup.

He says: "The field of finalists is so well balanced that there is no outstanding favourite to win the European championship.

"Our younger players need the support of the crowd. It would be fatal if the fans started to whistle and boo as soon as the first crossfield pass, or return to the keeper is attempted. That would only destroy their confidence."

Kaiser Franz also reminds everybody that Euro 88 is really just a stepping stone on the way to Italia 90 (World Cup), but because they're playing at home the Germans are expected to perform well and to win well.

If they don't then Franz, who is gradually being worn down by the aggressive media, may well throw in the towel — it is already rumoured that Italians clubs are only waiting for the wink of acceptance.

THE PLAYERS

CAPS AT MAY 20

EIKE IMMEL. Goalkeeper. VfB Stuttgart. Aged 27 (born

NY BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

NZ'S FAVOURITES ME UNDER FIRE

THE MANAGER

FRANZ BECKENBAUER. Aged 42. Of all the national team managers at the European finals none can boast of such a marvellous record as a player as Beckenbauer. He has won every honour in the game and is the most distinguished and most decorated German footballer in history. Yet, his appointment in 1984 was greeted with fierce criticism from his professional colleagues because he didn't and still does not have a full coaching licence, the so-called A-Trainer-Lizenz without which no German is allowed to manage a Bundesliga club, let alone the national team. And that is why Kaiser Franz still cannot be called 'Bundestrainer' (federal coach) but answers to the more modest title of Teamchief.

Beckenbauer began his career with SC Munich 1906, then starred for Bayern Munich, New York Cosmos and Hamburg. He won World Cup and European championship medals, European Cup (three times), Cup-winners' Cup and the World Club championship; domestic cup (four times), and league (five times) and US championship (three times). He was voted Footballer of the Year four times in West Germany, twice in Europe and once in USA.

He captained the national side 50 times and, between 1965 and 1977, made a record 103 appearances. Was decorated by the Germans with the Cross of Merit. He was the initiator of the attacking sweeper role and played six times for a World XI and twice for a Europe XI.

Beckenbauer took the West Germans to the World Cup runners up spot in 1986, but is now handicapped by a dearth of world-class players. He is attempting his first major title as manager; no one would begrudge him the ultimate triumph.

November 27, 1960) with 14 caps. Took over from the banned Harald Schumacher as the undisputed No 1 in national colours. Mobile, with a safe pair of hands and splendid reactions. Began his career in first class soccer with Borussia Dortmund, moved to Stuttgart in 1986. Did not have such a good season but retains the confidence of the team boss.

BODO ILLGNER. Goalkeeper. Koln. Aged 21 (born April 7, 1967) with three caps. Looks back on an amazing year. Was understudy to Schumacher at Koln replacing the sacked international as the club's No 1 in February 1987. After just six Bundesliga games was surprisingly called up into the full national squad. But Illgner already was the 'Under 21 team's' keeper. With Koln since 1985.

ANDREAS BREHME. Defender-cum-midfielder. Bayern Munich. Aged 27 (born November 9, 1960) with 35 caps. A hard tackling defender, or defensive midfielder, renowned for his fierce free kicks, and attacking flair. Technically good, though lately inconsistent. Began with Saarbrucken, then moved to Kaiserslautern, before joining Bayern Munich after the 1986 World Cup. Could be on the move again.

ULI BOROWKA. Defender. Werder Bremen. Aged 26 (born May 19, 1962) with one cap. After seven years with Borussia Monchengladbach joined Bremen a year ago. Strong in the tackle, difficult to pass utility defender whose determination and physical strength has stopped many an ambitious striker in his tracks. Made the breakthrough into the national squad only this season.

HANS PFLUGLER. Defender. Bayern Munich. Aged 28 (born March 27, 1960) with six caps. A left sided defensive player, also useful in midfield, now 13 years with Bayern with whom he won league championship and cup medals. Fearless and dependable in winning the ball. Brings experience and steadiness in the ranks.

GUIDO BUCHWALD. Stopper. Stuttgart. Aged 27 (born January 24, 1961) with 18 caps. A reliable central defender lately used in a tight marking role which effectively stops even the most dangerous strikers. Began his career with local clubs SV Wannweil and TSV Pliezhausen, then moved to Stuttgarter Kickers, before joining the bigger VfB five years ago; eventually making it into the national squad.

MATTHIAS HERGET. Sweeper. Bayer Uerdingen. Aged 32 (born November 14, 1955) with 33 caps. After years of searching for his own successor as the 'libero', Franz Beckenbauer has now settled for this superbly skilled player in that vital role. And Herget also shines as a hard-shooting free-kick specialist. Not so strong in the air, or in direct duels. Was promoted from the 'Under 21's'. Joined Uerdingen in 1982, having previously served four clubs including VfL Bochum and Rotweiss Essen. Vastly experienced, West Germany's key man in defence.

JURGEN KOHLER. Stopper. Koln. Aged 22 (born October 6, 1965) with 14 caps. Nicknamed 'Koks', was voted recently by his fellow professionals as the best player in the Bundesliga. Joined Koln from Waldhof in 1987 for £740,000.

KLAUS AUGENTHALER. Sweeper. Bayern Munich. Aged 30 (born October 26, 1957) with 14 caps. A utility defender, able to fill any position in the back four; recently ignored for lack of consistency, but now back in favour. Strong going forward, has a cracking shot. Lacks pace only average ball technique. Has spent 13 years with Bayern with whom he has won league and cup medals.

STEFAN REUTER. Defensive midfield. Nurnberg. Aged 21 (born October 16, 1966) with nine caps. Began his career with the amateurs of TSV Dunkelsbuhl; moved to Nurnberg in 1982. A work horse renowned for his fighting spirit and running capacity, rather than technical ability. Has probably stopped in his development and at present not first choice.

HANS DORFNER. Midfielder. Bayern Munich. Aged 22 (born July 3, 1965) with four caps. Came to Munich from neighbouring Nurnberg two years ago.

PIERRE LITTBARSKI. Attacking midfielder. Koln. Aged 28 (born April 16, 1960) with 53 caps. A talented dribbler with a fierce shot, made his name when scoring twice on his debut against Austria in 1981. World Cup runner up 1982. Joined Koln from Hertha Zehlendorf (Berlin) in 1978. Left in 1986 for Racing Club of Paris but was forced out by competition for places and internal strife.

LOTHAR MATTHAUS. Midfielder. Bayern Munich. Aged 27 (born March 23, 1961) with 60 caps. A midfield dynamo with a lethal shot, but only average vision. Not the 'playmaker' he was expected to become, but rather a grafter and ball winner. World Cup runner up 1986. Moved from Borussia Monchengladbach in 1984 to Munich for a substantial fee. Just sold to Inter Milan for £2.4 million.

WOLFGANG ROLFF. Midfielder. Bayer Leverkusen. Aged 28 (born December 26, 1959) with 30 caps. Another hard tackling, full of running 'water carrier', as the Germans say. Stronger in defence than going forward. Has pace and stamina, reasonable technique but not so effective at taking chances or shooting, or in the air. Was with three clubs before joining Hamburg in 1982. Signed for Leverkusen in 1986.

UWE RAHN. Midfielder. Borussia Monchengladbach. Aged 26 (born May 21, 1962) with 14 caps. A year ago was rated the best player in the country, became the Bundesliga's top scorer with 24 goals and 'Footballer of the Year'. Lately injury prone and less effective.

OLAF THON. Midfield. Schalke. Aged 22 (born January 1, 1966) with 23 caps. Highly talented schemer but has as yet failed to fulfil the promise that he would take over the mantle of former great German midfielders like Wolfgang Overath and Gunter Netzer. Joins Bayern Munich after the finals.

MANFRED SCHWABL. Midfield/attack. Nurnberg. Aged 22 (born April 18, 1966) with four caps. With Bayern Munich he was just a reserve — with Nurnberg he became an international. Would have become a tennis pro if he hadn't made it in football.

DIETER ECKSTEIN. Striker. Nurnberg. Aged 24 (born March 12, 1964) with four caps. Nicknamed 'Eckes', a left-sided striker, fast, with tremendous shooting power; not surprising since his hobby is guns. Joined Nurnberg in 1982. A keen golfer but his idol is Diego Maradona.

JURGEN KLINSMANN. Striker. VfB Stuttgart. Aged 23 (born July 30, 1964) with four caps. Made the breakthrough last December on the tour of South America.

RUDI VOLLER. Striker. Roma. Aged 28 (born April 13, 1960) with 48 caps. Made a startling impact on the Bundesliga following his transfer from Second Division 1860 Munich to Bremen in 1982. In his first season became the league's top scorer, 'Footballer of the Year' and celebrated his international baptism against Northern Ireland. Rated by the Germans as "the best centre forward in Europe — when fit". His main assets are vision, pace, heading ability and lethal finishing. But plagued by a variety of injuries for years. Left Bremen last summer for Roma at a cost of £2.5 million.

FRANZ A SET SIDE A

from TIM MANSEL

THERE is always a particular pressure on the host nation during a major international championship — and some teams are better equipped to deal with it than others.

Certainly Franz Beckenbauer, West Germany's team manager, has had a heavier load to bear than he either expected, or would have wished, during the last few months, unable to find a settled side and being forced to experiment right up to the last minute.

Yet three players, goalkeeper Eike Immel, sweeper Matthias Herget and centre-back Jurgen Kohler, have remained largely above criticism and seem assured of their places when West Germany line up against Italy in Dusseldorf on June 10.

Patience and a cool head have paid off for Stuttgart goalkeeper Immel, 27, who has had to wait a long time to make the international number one spot his own.

After breaking into the Borussia Dortmund side as a teenager, a long and successful career was forecast for the blond six-footer. Yet, after making his international debut at the age of 20 as long ago as 1980, coming on as a substitute for Toni Schumacher in a 1-1 draw with Holland in Eindhoven, he has added just 13 caps to his total in eight years.

International opportunites have been few and far between for German goalkeepers over the last 20 years, with first Sepp Maier and then the brilliant but temperamental Schumacher monopolising the position.

Many a time must Immel have sat on the bench, wondering when Schumacher would make an error. The error, when it finally came last year, was not on the football, but rather in the literary field, namely Schumacher's autobiography Anpfiff — Kick-Off — without whose publication the author would probably still be frustrating any pretenders to his crown.

The book shocked the German football world, not primarily because of its accusations about drug-taking in the Bundesliga but more particularly for the highly personal criticisms levelled at colleagues and managers, including Beckenbauer and Immel himself.

Meanwhile Uli Stein, then of Hamburg, Schumacher's heir apparent, blew his own chances, first with a highly publicised bust-up with Beckenbauer in Mexico in 1986, which led to his being sent home early, and then with a physical attack on Bayern Munich striker Jurgen Wegmann during last season's West German Super Cup. Both keepers were released by their clubs as a result of their indiscretions, which also put paid to their international careers.

Meanwhile Immel, who had left Dortmund for Stuttgart in 1986 because he thought the more successful club would provide him with a better stage to further his international ambitions, had continued to impress most observers, and most importantly Beckenbauer, with a series of reliable and sometimes outstanding displays.

Having shaken off the playboy image which accompanied his early, teenage days in Dortmund, when the young keeper was reported to have a penchant for fast cars and fast women, Immel had matured into a fine goalkeeper, who was working hard and waiting for his moment.

He has not been without his critics, many of whom have accused him in the past of not commanding his area vocally, giving too little information to the men in front of him, and there are still those in the Bundesliga who believe Immel is not the country's top keeper.

Assuredly he has no room for complacency. For although Beckenbauer has assured him of his place in the national eleven, both Cologne's Bodo Illgner and Nurnberg's Andreas Kopke are breathing hard down his neck.

Certainly he can ill-afford a similar mistake to the one which led to possibly the most spectacular goal in the Bundesliga last season.

Stuttgart had just gone 2-0 ahead in a midweek home game in March, when the visitors from Hannover kicked off. Immel was standing a few yards off his line as the ball was passed sideways to Hannover striker Siggi Reich, who, having spotted Immel's position, let loose from 55 yards. The startled keeper back-pedalled frantically, only to watch helplessly as the ball sailed over his head into the empty net.

Reich explained later that, as a former Dortmund team-mate of Immel's, he knew the keeper had a habit of standing off his line at the kick-off, and he thought it was worth a try.

Not the kind of error Beckenbauer will appreciate during the European Championships!

At 32, sweeper Matthias Herget is likely to be the oldest player representing the federal republic this summer. Yet, although now assured of a regular place, at least for the time being, it has been a long hard struggle for the Bayer Uerdingen libero.

Indeed there was a time when it seemed the talented defender would not even make it as a professional footballer, let alone an established international.

Herget, who was playing Bundesliga football in his early 20s for the Ruhr district club Vfl Bochum, was shown the door in 1978. The first division outfit was convinced of his talent, yet exasperated by his attitude, and finally decided to let him go to second division neighbours Rot-Weiss Essen, where Herget began the first of five seasons in second class football.

During the first two years there were times when it seemed he might drop further still and it was only in 1980 that he showed he might be destined for greater things.

His game improved enough to persuade Uerdingen, then also of the second division, to splash out 500,000 Deutschmarks in 1982, and his performances in his first season at his new club helped them to promotion into the top flight.

International recognition, an impossible dream in his earlier days, followed the next season, when at the age of nearly 28, Herget came on as a substitute during a 5-1 win over Turkey in Berlin in October 1983.

Yet he has been unable to make the libero position his own until fairly recently, with hot competition from the likes of Hamburg's Ditmar Jakobs, Bayern Munich's Klaus Augenthaler and most lately Thomas Horster of Bayer Leverkusen.

Renowned for his positive attitude, he is of the firm belief that risks have to be taken if games are to be won.

Herget's biggest disappointment to date came in Mexico in 1986, when, having travelled as first-choice sweeper, he found his position usurped first by Augenthaler and then by Jakobs as Beckenbauer plumped for reliability before flair. Herget appeared just once, in midfield against Denmark, in Germany's march to the Final.

This time round, Herget was assured of his place by Beckenbauer, even before a groin injury forced Horster out of the reckoning in the spring. But the European finals are likely to be Herget's last major stage, with the national team manager already having given notice that Werder Bremen's young Gunter Sauer is the man of the future.

One of the most technically gifted players in German football, with fine vision and the ability to play inch-perfect long balls, Herget's finest hour in domestic football came in 1985 when he was a member of the Uerdingen side which beat Bayern Munich 2-1 in a surprise cup final victory, which enabled the club to qualify for Europe for the first time.

Last season must have been a frustrating one for Herget, with Uerdingen battling in the lower reaches of the Bundesliga against the constant threat of relegation.

By nature a quiet Christmas during a league game in Homburg. After a linesman had failed to spot an "offside" Herget lost his rag and told the official he was a "blind pig", a term of endearment which does not go down well in Germany,

GARY LINEKER (left) and JURGEN KOHLER

LACKS TLED AS YET

and he was promptly shown the red card.

His indiscretion led to a four-match ban, but after a plea by Beckenbauer on his behalf, the German football authorities gave him leave to join the international squad on a trip to South America during the season's winter break.

Herget, whose habit of wearing his shirt outside his shorts has become something of a trademark, is also well-known for his abilities with a dead ball. This he has already proved at international level with an exquisitely chipped 20-yard strike in the mud of Avellino in February 1986, which helped the Germans to a 2-1 win over Italy.

When Jurgen Kohler, already capped 14 times at just 22, joined Cologne at the beginning of last season, even he was dismayed at the size of the 2.2 million Deutschmark fee, which the football authorities decided should be paid to Waldhof Mannheim for his signature.

Yet he has probably proved to be the shrewdest buy of the season, for unlike many young players who turn in under par performances because of the pressure of a large transfer fee, Kohler has matured fast and had an outstanding season at the heart of the Cologne defence, fully justifying the faith of Cologne trainer Christoph Daum.

Daum was quoted, at the time of Kohler's move, as saying that his defence needed stopping up, and that a defender like Kohler could save enough points for the club to qualify for Europe — prophetic indeed.

Kohler gave up his motor mechanic training to turn to full-time football, joining Mannheim, then in the second division, at the age of 16, and becoming a permanent fixture at the centre of their defence at 17, under the watchful eye of trainer Klaus Schlappner, a man with a reputation for nurturing young talent. Mannheim won the second division in 1983 and Kohler made his Bundesliga debut for them the following year.

International recognition followed swiftly, in 1985, when he made his debut as a 19-year-old for the U21's in a 2-1 defeat by Portugal in Lisbon. By the time he made his eleventh and last U21 appearance, as captain in a 3-1 defeat by Holland, he had already been given a taste of life at full international level.

That happened in September 1986 in Copenhagen, when the 20-year-old Kohler found himself up against Denmark's prolific goalscorer Preben Elkjaer in West Germany's first game after their defeat in the World Cup final in Mexico. Kohler came in for Karl-Heinz Forster, a big hero of his in his younger days, and acquitted himself well in a 2-0 victory.

He should get the chance to renew his acquaintance with Elkjaer when the two countries meet in a Group One game in Gelsenkirchen on June 14.

Kohler is a tall, strong, uncompromising tackler, dominant in the air and skilful on the ground. All elbows and knees he is the kind of defender no striker relishes being up against.

If he has a problem, it is the frequency with which he attracts the attention of referees. He was shown the yellow card on no fewer than ten occasions last season and missed three games through suspension.

by SIMON KUPER

ARNOLD MUHREN, Holland's 37-year-old midfielder, will be saying his farewell to international football at the European championships. It will be his first as well as his last appearance at an international tournament. He may display his exquisite left foot at Ajax for one more season, but he does not intend to play for Holland again.

Muhren's etched, round face and bent back make him look even more than his age. He was born in the village of Volendam in 1951, as one of nine children. When a boy, Muhren sang in the children's choir which will represent Holland at the opening ceremony of the European championships.

He started his career at Volendam, and then moved to Ajax, where he was usually a reserve during the club's golden years of the early 1970s. The player who kept him out of the team was his older brother Gerrit.

Muhren left Ajax for Twente Enschede, before Bobby Robson brought him to England to play for Ipswich. Muhren and his fellow Dutchman Frans Thijssen were successful at Ipswich, though Muhren fared less well at his next club, Manchester United.

In 1985 Muhren returned to Holland to play for Ajax. He was already 34, and regaining his place in the national side was the last thing on his mind. As early as 1980 he had said: "I lost all hope of ever playing for Holland again when I wasn't picked for the World Cup of 1978."

But at Johan Cruyff's Ajax Muhren showed that age had not withered his skill. Rinus Michels recalled him to the national team for the match against Cyprus in December 1986, and Muhren has stayed in the side ever since. He steadies the young Dutch team: "I owe a lot to the generation shortly before me, Cruyff's generation. Now I want to pass on my experience to the present generation."

Supreme Gift

Muhren coordinates Holland's left flank. His vision is such that he can change a situation on the pitch simply by moving one step. His supreme gift remains his pass. Once it fed Alan Brazil and Paul Mariner, now John Bosman scores from it.

"Every time Muhren passes the ball," says Ajax's caretaker manager Barry Hulshoff, "you can see him measure it so that it reaches his target at exactly the right time, at the best possible moment for the target to receive it." Robson agrees: "Arnold never wasted a ball."

However, Muhren is now clearly aging. The European Championships really come a year too late for him. Holland will have to play three group matches in just one week.

Can Muhren last the course? As his national team rival, Hendrie Kruzen says: "Muhren is a great player, but when his name is mentioned the word 'rest' is always immediately added."

Muhren can rest all he likes . . . after June 25.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW

WHERE THEY PLAY

By SIMON INGLIS . . . author of *Football Grounds of Great Britain*, who is currently writing *Football Grounds of the World*, to be published by Collins in late 1989.

HAVING staged both the 1974 World Cup and the 1972 Olympics, West Germany is perfectly equipped to host an event like the European Championships.

In fact, only one piece of major reconstruction has been necessary, at Frankfurt. Elsewhere fans will notice few changes from those stadiums used in 1974, apart from new video replay screens at Stuttgart and Frankfurt.

Two of the 1974 venues have been overlooked this time round; West Berlin's Olympic Stadium (which was fobbed off with the recent four nation tournament) and Dortmund, whose excellent Westfalenstadion is regarded by many West German fans as one of the few true football grounds in the country — that is, it has no athletics track — but apparently doesn't meet UEFA's requirements for segregating supporters.

There is one newcomer to the international tournament scene, Cologne's Mungersdorfer Stadium, which was built after the 1974 World Cup.

Dusseldorf — Rheinstadion (68,360 cap)

THE venue for the opening match on June 10 is one of Europe's most dramatically constructed stadiums. Like the city of Dusseldorf, it is stylish without being fussy, efficient without seeming too dour.

Opened originally in 1926, four years of reconstruction between 1968-72 transformed the Rheinstadion beyond recognition. Sepp Maier called it the most beautiful venue in the country when it was re-opened in November 1972.

Set amid chestnut trees on the banks of the Rhine, the stadium is dominated by a horseshoe shaped cantilever roof, suspended from steel cables hanging down from 62 angular concrete masts.

The same principle is used for Dusseldorf's three striking bridges over the Rhine, which like the Rheinstadion are the work of award winning local architect, Professor Dr. Freidrich Tamms.

The roof covers half of the 68,360 capacity, of which 33,500 are accommodated in the rear seated tier. One rear section only is for standing, and that is the haunt of Fortuna's more vocal fans.

Hanover — Niedersachsenstadion (60,366)

FOR sheer convenience and congenial surroundings Hanover's Lower Saxony Stadium is a pleasure. Stroll through the city centre, past the Town Hall and there it stands, on the shores of the Maschsee.

Allied aircrew played a part in the stadium's construction, since two million cubic metres of rubble from the bombed-out city were used to raise the banking, on the site an original ground opened in 1925.

Reopened officially in 1954 with only one small covered area — the existing main stand — the stadium was then capable of holding up to 86,500. Used extensively for internationals and cup finals, it had no major resident club until Hannoverscher SV 96 arrived in 1962.

The vast, curving roof which now covers the bank opposite the main stand was built for 1974, when the capacity was reduced to its current level of 60,366, of which 18,705 are covered seats and 21,939 uncovered.

Stuttgart — Neckarstadion (70,705)

THE Federal Republic's third largest stadium, with a capacity of 70,705 (half seated), the Neckarstadion is flanked by the River Neckar and Daimler Benz's massive works, the oldest car factory in the world.

The stadium was opened in 1933 and expanded within a few years to its present capacity. The most recent changes came in 1974, with the erection of the main stand.

From inside the stadium this unusual stand's cantilevered roof dips over the seating rather like Anfield's Kemlyn Road stand. From the main entrance on Mercedesstrasse (which leads to Benzstrasse, naturally), the stand is characterised by freestanding concrete struts clamped into the roof structure as if part of a mechanical brace.

The first floor windows resemble giant exhaust pipes, around which red and blue abstract forms have been painted on the walls. Different, if nothing else. Opposite the main stand is a simple cover. Both ends are open.

Apart from hosting VfB Stuttgart's Bundesliga matches, the Neckarstadion has staged numerous major events, including the European Athletics Championships in 1986, West Germany's first post-war international, v. Switzerland in November 1950, an emotional event watched by 97,533 (although unofficially the crowd was estimated at 130,000). More recently the stadium hosted this year's European Cup Final.

Cologne — Mungersdorfer Stadion (60,584)

COLOGNE is the only Euro 88 venue not to have been used during the World Cup, as the reconstructed stadium was not completed until November 1975.

Built on the exact site of the original 1923 stadium, the Mungersdorfer (named after the district) is on the outskirts of the city in the midst of a large sports complex, with parking space alone for 12,000 cars.

Approaching from the formal gateway on the main road one can see the original office buildings which used to overlook the pitch but are now overshadowed by the new stands. Capacity is 60,584, though it looks bigger, of which 28,108 are seated. Every spectator is protected from the elements by a continuous cantilevered roof.

Gelsenkirchen — Parkstadion (70,748)

FORTRESS-LIKE and in splendid isolation on the greener edges of the city, the Parkstadion's dimensions owe as much to FC Schalke 04's traditional appeal as to the lure of international football.

Until 1973 Schalke played in a cramped, outdated stadium (seen en-route from the city centre). It took three years to complete the Parkstadion, whose site was an airfield next to the grounds of Castle Berge, itself a popular recreational park (hence the stadium's name). Schalke's new stadium was certainly impressive, but was it still home?

Holding 70,748 altogether, three sides of the Parkstadion are uncovered, with the East Side holding 13,762 seats. From the top of the windswept banks one can survey the surrounding flat landscape of parkland, car parks (holding over 15,000 cars), autobahns and distant factory chimneys. It's almost as if the stadium has been cast adrift from its city moorings.

Frankfurt — Waldstadion (61,056)

IN common with several other venues the Waldstadion originates from the mid-1920s, was restored after the Second World War and greatly improved again for the 1974 World Cup.

Sadly the original 1925 main stand, a wonderful hodge-podge of classical columns and pitched rooves, is but a memory.

Situated in the midst of the largest expanse of municipal woodlands in West Germany (hence the stadium's name), the Waldstadion can be a noisy venue even without crowds. Closeby is Frankfurt airport's main runway and directly behind is a main railway line.

Capacity is 61,056, of which half are seated, with both sides covered. The Main Stand, extensively refurbished for the European Championships, has a half-cantilevered roof and is actually smaller than the opposite stand, built into the side of a raised bank. Both ends are open but, because they are lined with trees, the overall impression is quite enclosed.

Hamburg — Volksparkstadion (61,351)

OPENED in the same year as the Waldstadion, the first semi-final venue was originally called Altone Stadium, after the town adjoining Hamburg.

In the early 1950s, rubble from the heavy wartime bombing was used to build up the banking and the current name — the People's Park Stadium — adopted.

It was then that Hamburger SV moved here from their homely, inner city Rothenbaum stadium (still in use by the club's amateurs). The rebuilt Volksparkstadion's capacity was 75,000, but this was reduced for the 1974 World Cup to its present level of 61,351 (28,561 seats).

Munich — Olympiastion (77,895)

THE Olympic Stadium needs little introduction. This controversial structure, like a 21st Century bedouin tent draped across the landscape, was the brainchild of a Stuttgart architect, Prof. Gunter Bennisch.

Dramatic though the nine, saddle-shaped, see-through panelled rooves are, hoisted on their steel tent-poles and tensioned with guylines at all angles — some of them actually straddle the adjacent autobahn — the fact is that at both ends of the stadium the concourses are better protected from the elements than are the actual terraces.

Few realise that the area was once the Oberwiesenfeld airfield where Chamberlain made his infamous flight to meet Hitler, almost exactly 50 years ago.

The capacity of the Olympic Stadium is 77,895, the largest in West Germany, of which 47,519 are seated. Bayern Munich, the country's wealthiest outfit, have played here since its opening and to an extent have only found fame since their move (remember TSV Munchen 1860?).

The Olympiastadion is a fine setting for a final, of that there can be no doubt. One can enjoy the grounds before the match, rather as fans did 80 years ago at Crystal Palace.

Viewing is unobstructed all round and everywhere one looks there is a intriguing blend of angles, shapes and textures. It is a technological masterpiece, but is it a good football stadium?

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SPOTLIGHT ON ITALY

BY BR

ITALIA STILL PO TRAVELI

IT has still to be shown whether Italy's rebuilt team can perform away as well as it can at home and can flourish without the support of a home crowd. Of the matches played this season, those on foreign soil have been a great deal less impressive than those played before passionate crowds in Naples and Bari.

Moreover, the marginal and reluctantly contested game in Luxembourg last April, won 3-0, causes serious doubts about the temperament of the new idol of Italian football, Gianluca Vialli.

Spitting in the face of a rough opponent, punching him, rolling on the ground with him in the dressing room corridor is not the kind of behaviour which promotes much confidence in a striker's ability to resist provocation. The provocation, as Italian critics were swift to point out, which Vialli will encounter more and more, now that his spectacular goals against Sweden and the Soviet Union have made him a major international figure.

Azeglio Vicini, succeeding a weary Enzo Bearzot and taking over a tired, dispirited team after the 1986 World Cup, has boldly rebuilt it on the basis of the Under 21 side with which he did so well. Such players as Vialli himself, Mancini, Donadoni, Giannini, Maldini and De Napoli all came up through that team, and Vicini is known to be thinking chiefly of the 1990 World Cup, when Italy, of course, will be playing on home soil.

Bearzot's team may have needed renewing, but it is equally plain that the loss of such stars as Conti, Bagni, and for all useful intents and purposes, Altobelli, is a very debilitating one. This year, Vicini has made it clear that he wanted to use friendly matches to try young players; much to the dissatisfaction of Altobelli, who refused to come to Bari for the Russian match, knowing that he would not be chosen to play.

I have twice seen Italy in action this season; at Pisa, in the meaningless friendly with Yugoslavia, again in Naples, when they beat Sweden 2-1 but were, I thought, a little lucky to do so. Two glorious pieces of opportunism by Vialli, two stupendous shots, ripped into the net to give them their win but there were a number of occasions when Sweden should really have scored, and Vialli's second goal was the result of strangely dozey play by the usually strong Swedish central defence. I though the Italian *catenaccio* formation, which Vicini defends to the death against all critics — the latest being Milan's president Berlusconi — looked a little old hat.

True, Franco Baresi has really come into his own since taking over as sweeper, but he does not seem to be a very fluid one, in the modern manner, while the man to man marking system sometimes forces players into defensive situations in which they look uncomfortable. In Naples, for example, Italy did look short of a genuine right-back; though they can now use Ferrara there if they wish.

Altobelli that day had a poor game and, I think, having done the state some service, Vicini is right to feel he is over the hill. But there is no one really ready to take his place, no true centre-forward in evidence.

The slender Rizzitelli is being cautiously blooded match by match, as substitute; he's still a long way off. Neither Vialli nor Mancini is really a centre-forward. Vialli began as a left winger, Mancini as a right winger, and though Vialli has made strides towards becoming an all round striker — though on the ground rather than in the air — his Sampdoria "twin", Mancini, is not really the ideal complement. He doesn't like it much in the middle. That could be a substantial disadvantage when things get serious in West Germany.

Antonio Cabrini dropped out of international football on the eve of the Swedish game, and though there are three left backs competing for his position, none really has the attacking excellence that he has long shown, nor the defensive authority. Young Paolo Maldini, now saluted by actresses as the most "handsome" member of the team, Cabrini having gone, shows high promise, Francini attacks powerfully and swiftly, De Agostini, so often used or misused by club and country in midfield, is a resourceful full-back. But not — like the others — yet a player of the stature of Cabrini.

Age and injury have blunted the edge of the formidable Bagni, and this is another player who will be severely missed. Since Marco Tardelli departed international football, Bagni has been the midfielder to give that section bite and combativeness. He can be a nasty customer and a provocative one; but when have Italian teams excluded anyone on those grounds, from Monti through Gentile and Benetti? The present Italian midfield has a rugged player in De Napoli, but little Giannini of Roma is a somewhat delicate object. I have no doubts about his touch and talent, his flair for the telling pass, even his shot, but I think he can be hustled out of the game.

On the right flank, any hopes of turning Milan's Donadoni into another Bruno Conti seem to have foundered. He simply hasn't the ability of Conti, at his best, to dominate the whole of that right flank, by turns assistant to the defence, midfielder and flying attacker. With Atalanta, Donadoni had much more of a free role than Milan have given him, and for all his ability, he has not really made much of an impact on the right. Another plain problem.

Italy thrashed the Soviets 4-1 in Bari with another fine couple of goals by Vialli, but I don't think that meant very much. The Russians, as the Italian critics remarked, were rusty, just out of their winter hibernation, although they had been preparing for several weeks in Italy. More to the point were the disappointing performances in Switzerland and Yugoslavia. And these were in mere friendlies. The European Championship will exert a pressure which may weigh heavily on some of the members of this young, emerging team. It's the kind of situation in which one badly needs a Bagni in midfield.

THE MANAGER

AZEGLIO VICINI, Aged 55 (born March 20, 1933). Began his playing career with local club Cesena from 1951 to 1953 and then moved into the first division, spending three years with Lanerossi Vicenza and seven with Sampdoria — first as an orthodox outside right, then back in midfield. Ended his playing career after two seasons (1963-65) with Brescia. Sat the English FA coaching badge, spent a year on the coaching staff at Brescia his old club, and then accepted an appointment on the federation coaching staff, on the recommendation of then national manager Ferruccio Valcareggi. Spent five years as youth team manager then 11 years in charge of the under-23s, the under-21s and the Olympic team. By now Vicini had established himself as senior aide to Enzo Bearzot, whom he succeeded as national supremo after the 1986 World Cup. Vicini is the only manager at the European championships finals not to have played senior international football for his country. The nearest he came to representative football was seven appearances for the Italian army.

THE PLAYERS

CAPS AT MAY 20

WALTER ZENGA. Goalkeeper. Aged 28 (born April 28, 1960) with 15 caps. Internazionale. Zenga made his international debut in a friendly against Greece in Bologna on October 8, 1986. It was Italy's first match since the World Cup in Mexico, in which Galli of Milan had had a wretched time. Zenga had held on to the postion; athletic, agile, strong and brave. His problems have chiefly come off the field. He was known to have made a provisional agreement to join Naples which caused bitter animosity among Inter fans, who even attacked him outside his apartment. But he decided to stay with Inter, the club he joined as a 17-year-old. They lent him to Salernitana, Savona and Sambenedettese of the Third Division; he finally became first choice in season 1983-4.

STEFANO TACCONI. Goalkeeper. Aged 31 (born May 13, 1957) with one cap. Juventus. Tacconi is well known for his public indiscretions; he is forever making provocative statements. Not till 1983/4 did he become Juventus' goalkeeper, after spells with Spoleto, Inter (no first team appearances), Pro Patria, Livorno, Sambenedettese; and Avellino, with whom he had three ever present seasons in the First Division.

GIUSEPPE BERGOMI Right-back or marker. Aged 24 (born Dec 22, 1963) with 45 caps. Inter. A "boy wonder" who won a World Cup medal in Spain in 1982, with a series of astonishingly cool, mature performances, not least in the Final itself, when he was still only 18. He was 17 when he made his League debut for his local club, Inter, against Como at San Siro, 22-2-81. His first appearance for Italy came in Leipzig as a 61st. minute substitute against East Germany on April 14, 1982.

FRANCO BARESI. Libero; sometimes midfield. Aged 28 (born May 8, 1960) with 20 caps. Milan. Younger brother of Giuseppe, the Inter defender. Both have spent their whole career with one club, Franco making his Championship debut against Verona on 23.4.78, his only appearance that season. The following season, he didn't miss a game. An elegant, mobile libero, strangely misused in the 1986 Mexican World Cup to close-marker Michel Platini, Baresi has come into his own at last as Italy's powerful sweeper, succeeding Scirea and the disappointing Tricella. International debut against Rumania in Florence, a 0-0 draw, 4-12-82.

RICCARDO FERRI. Stopper. Aged 24 (born Aug 20, 1963) with 12 caps. Inter. Younger brother of the Torino defender. "Maybe his style can be criticised, but he hasn't yet had a bad game for Italy," wrote a recent Italian critic.

CIRO FERRARA. Right-back. Aged 21 (born Feb 11, 1967) with four caps, Napoli. That rarity, a Naples player and Italian international, actually born and developed in Naples. Debut for his club: against Juventus at home in a 0-0 draw.

GIOVANNI FRANCINI. Left-back. Aged 27 (born Jan 18,

IAN GLANVILLE

NS OOR LERS

Fernando De Napoli

1961) with eight caps. Napoli. a Tuscan, born at Massa, who can also play stopper. Spent his whole career in Turin with Torino (bar one season with Reggiana on loan) for whom he made League debut against Ascoli, until a huge fee took him to Naples in 1987. An exciting, attacking player, tremendously fast and adventurous, who both scores and makes goals. Italy debut in Milan against the Swiss, substituting Cabrini, after 11 minutes.

PAOLO MALDINI. Full-back or stopper. Left sided. Aged 19 (born June 26, 1968) with two caps. Milan. One of the most gifted young defenders in Europe, highly mobile and enterprising, son of the former Milan stopper and present Under 21 coach, Cesare. Debut for Milan: 20.1.85, away to Udinese. International debut: Yugoslavia, Split, 31.3.88 as sub. after 53 minutes.

LUIGI DE AGOSTINI. Aged 27 (born April 7, 1961) with nine caps. Juventus. Juve paid Verona £3 million for him in summer of 1987 when he was a promising international left-back; to use him largely in midfield. Came on as sub for Italy against Sweden at Naples in Europe Championship game, and was involved in both Italian goals.

FERNANDO DE NAPOLI. Right side midfield. Aged 24 (born Dec 12, 1963) with 20 caps. Napoli. Born Chiusano di San Domenico, near Avellino, the club for which he played till Naples bought him, expensively, in 1986. In 1982, Avellino lent him to Rimini for a season in Division C1. Then three seasons with them in Serie A, and World Cup appearances for Italy in Mexico. Dominates the right flank with his power, speed and aggression. Debut for Italy in May 1986 v China in Naples as second half sub.

ROBERTO DONADONI. Right winger or midfield. Aged 24 (born Sept 9, 1963) with 15 caps. Milan. An Atalanta (Bergamo) product who has still really to come off for Italy as deep right winger. Had four seasons as regular with Atalanta in Serie A and Serie B, running the midfield, but found on transfer to Milan in 1986 that he was restricted to more peripheral role. Debut for Italy in October 1986 v Greece, in Bologna.

LUCA FUSI. Defensive midfielder of promise. Aged 24 (born June 7, 1963) with two caps. Sampdoria. Spent early career with Como, Serie A and B, ever present in A for three seasons, when Sampdoria took him to Genoa in 1986. Again, he didn't miss a League game. Debut v Yugoslavia at Split as sub after 65 minutes.

GIUSEPPE GIANNINI, Midfield. Aged 23 (born Aug 20, 1964) with 14 caps. Roma. Picked up by Roma from local football, against strong competition, in 1979. League debut: 31.1.82 at home to Cesena, but he had to wait till 1984 to win a regular place. Elegant ball player, quick to see the opening for a pass; or a shot. Still to prove himself internationally away from home. International debut in December 1986 v Malta in Valletta.

FRANCESCO ROMANO. Midfielder. Aged 27 (born April 25, 1960) Napoli. Romantic and even ironic career; born at Saviano, near Naples, but didn't join Naples till October 1986 when they picked him up as a late choice in mid season from Serie B's Triestina.

ALESSANDRO ALTOBELLI. Centre-forward. Aged 32 (born Nov 28, 1955) with 56 caps (24 goals). Inter. Missed by all the big local clubs, "Spillone", the Big Pin, or Sandro, played Third Division football one season for Latina, then had three in Serie B for Brescia, scoring 26 goals, before Inter at last picked him up in 1977. Regular choice for them till this season, when his place with both club and country were in jeopardy. A regular scorer, biggest haul in the championship 17 in 1984-5, scorer for Italy in 1986 World Cup Final in Madrid v West Germany when he substituted Graziani after ten minutes.

ROBERTO MANCINI (Sampdoria) Centre-forward or right winger; probably prefers the latter. Aged 23 (born Nov 27, 1964), with 12 caps. Sampdoria. Bologna signed him at 13, but his debut was made for them only four years later in Serie A, against Cagliari. 30 games, 9 goals. Was still only 17 when Sampdoria signed him for record fee for a teenager in 1982.

GIANLUCA VIALLI. Striker. Aged 23 (born July 9, 1964) with 24 caps. Sampdoria. Italy's new hero, most lauded attacker since Gigi Riva; appropriately, the man who pulled him away from a brawl with Luxembourg's defender Weis after a torrid friendly in April, 1988. Comes from Cremona, began career with local Cremonese in Division C1, 1980-81, then played three seasons for them in Serie B, joining Sampdoria in 1984, still known chiefly as a left winger. His great pace and powerful left foot have now been augmented by a fine right foot shot, too; shades of Bobby Charlton. Recognised as a striker who can operate anywhere along the front line, he became a major star with his two marvellously struck goals in Naples against Sweden in Euro qualifying game at Naples, 1987.

RUGGIERO RIZZITELLI. Striker. Aged 20 (born Sept 2, 1967) with two caps. Cesena. The centre-forward every big Italian club wants. Will cost them some £5 million. Relatively slight but highly effective; born at Margherita di Savoia, signed for Cesena in 1984.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPAIN

BUTRA
IN POO

THE reputation of Spain as one of the leading powers in world football has traditionally been based on the international achievements of its top clubs rather than on the exploits of its national team.

Real Madrid and — to a lesser extent — Barcelona, Valencia and Zaragoza carried all before them in the formative years of the European club competitions, massively assisted by the incorporation of the leading South American and European stars of the day.

The Spanish national team, in contrast — despite the inclusion of outstanding foreign players such as Alfredo Di Stefano, Ferenc Puskas and Ladislao Kubala — used to be an almost permanent source of frustration and disappointment, the victim of the bitter rivalry between the giant clubs and of the weakness and inefficiency of the federation.

But all that's history now. In recent years, this situation has been gradually reversed.

The leading club teams are still graced by expensive overseas players, but their domination of Europe only lasted until the mid-1960s. Indeed, it's been 22 years since Spanish hands — those of Real Madrid, of course — held aloft the Champions Cup.

Their massive financial power and support are no longer sufficient to tip the balance in Continental clashes, as demonstrated by the recent European eliminations of Madrid and Barcelona by the relatively modest PSV Eindhoven and Bayer Leverkusen.

On the other hand, the national team is no longer the poor relation in Spanish football.

That situation gradually began to change during the long reign as national manager of Ladislao Kubala, from 1969 to 1980. Regular training camps and friendly matches were introduced for the first time, with the result that Spain qualified for the finals of the 1978 World Cup and the 1980 European Championship.

It is true that the host team — under the direction of the embattled Jose Santamaria — was a disaster when the World Cup roadshow came to Spain in 1982. But since then, veteran Miguel Munoz has put and maintained "la seleccion" where it undoubtedly deserves to be: among the international football elite.

First came second place in the 1984 European Championship, beaten only by a Platini-inspired France playing on home soil. Then came success in the Mexico World Cup, cut short by an unfortunate penalty defeat against Belgium in the quarter finals.

Munoz's third — and most likely final — campaign in charge has again brought qualification for the finals tournament, although not without difficulties. Spain edged their way through to Germany because, in the final analysis, Rumania could only achieve a goalless draw away to Austria. Munoz's men, in contrast, won 3-2 in Vienna, with Francisco Carrasco scoring a spectacular injury time winner.

Despite the successes achieved earlier in France and Mexico, however, there is no abundance of optimism about Spanish prospects in Germany, mainly because of an acute goals famine. Nobody doubts that the backbone of the team is strong, composed of veterans Camacho, Goicoechea, Gallego, Gordillo and Victor, upon whom Munoz has relied throughout his six-year reign.

The problems are all up front. Six different strikers have been tried out in the four friendly games played this year — 2-1 defeats by both Czechoslovakia and France, goalless draws with East Germany and Scotland — but only two goals have resulted.

Both Butragueno and Carrasco are in terrible form, whilst Julio Salinas has continued to demonstrate that they cannot be relied upon for goals. Jose Maris Baquero has been a prolific scorer for John Toshack this season, but is short of international experience. And it's by no means certain that the exciting but inconsistent Paco Llorente will even make the trip to Germany.

The striker situation is so worrying that it's even being rumoured that Espanol's UEFA Cup hero Pichi Alonso will be making a shock international comeback at the age of 35, after seven years in the wilderness.

The fans here expect Spain to defeat Denmark, something of a tradition in recent years. But they don't hold out much hope of Butragueno and Co breaching the more solid defences of Italy and Germany.

THE MANAGER

MIGUEL MUNOZ, At 66 Munoz will be by far the oldest and most experienced of the eight managers present in Germany. It will be his last campaign in direct command, and so he's obviously intent on going on a high note. His contract terminates straight after the championship, and although it's possible he may remain for two years in an advisory role, it appears almost certain that the successful U-21 team coach Luis Suarez will be assuming control of the "seleccion".

The achievements of Munoz the wily, pragmatic manager have far outstripped those of Munoz the modest player. The highlight of his playing career as a workman-like right-half was captaining Real Madrid in their first two Champions Cup final victories. Upon retirement in 1958, he was appointed coach to the nursery team Plus Utra and proved such a success that he took over the Real first team in January 1960. In his fourteen-year managerial reign at the Bernabeu, Munoz won a staggering nine league titles, two Champions Cups and two Spanish Cups.

This top-level experience made him the obvious candidate for the post of national team manager after the 1982 World Cup, and he had no hesitation about accepting the job. Munoz is highly respected for the success obtained by his team in France and Mexico. But that was yesterday, and the highly critical Spanish fan has a notoriously short memory — as Terry Venables and many others know only too well.

THE PLAYERS

CAPS AT MAY 20

ANDONI ZUBIZARRETA. Goalkeeper. Aged 26 (born Oct 23, 1961) with 29 caps. Barcelona. Tall and solid keeper who shot to fame in the Bilbao double-winning team of 1983/84. Became a Spain regular when Luis Arconada was seriously injured in September 1985. Performed creditably in the 1986 World Cup, and immediately afterwards was signed by Barca for a domestic record fee. Only weakness is with penalties — he saved the first spot kick of his professional career only two months ago in Mallorca. Was recently voted the most sexy Spanish footballer by a leading women's magazine!

FRANCISCO BUYO. Goalkeeper. Aged 30. (born January 13, 1958) with four caps. Real Madrid. Made his Spain debut in the historic 12-1 destruction of Malta in December 1983, whilst a Sevilla player. Signed by Real in 1986, and was soon a hero in the penalty shootout against Juventus in the Champions Cup.

ANDONI GOICOECHEA. Central defender. Aged 31 (born Mar 13, 1957) with 39 caps. Atletico Madrid. The former "Butcher of Bilbao" has mellowed slightly since the days of his fracas with Diego Maradona and Bernd Schuster, but is still a formidable opponent. Recent injury troubles, however, may force him to miss the Germany trip. Signed by Atletico Madrid last summer.

GENARO ANDRINUA. Central defender. Aged 24 (born May 9, 1964) with five caps. Athletic Bilbao. In contrast to his former team-mate Goicoechea, he is a skilful and elegant defender occasionally criticised for not being sufficiently physical. Often compared to Jesus Garay, the legendary Bilbao defender of the 1950s. A key man in Howard Kendall's plans.

MANUEL SANCHIS, Central defender. Aged 23 (born May 23, 1965) with 11 caps. Son of the Manuel Sanchis who played full-back for Real and Spain in the 1960s. Along with friends Michel, Martin Vazquez and Emilio Butragueno, stood out for Real nursery team Castilla and the Spain U-21 team. Made his debut for the Real first team as an energetic midfielder aged just 18. Was switched by coach Luis Molowny to centre-half and was an instant success. Missed Mexico World Cup due to injury. Made long-awaited Spain debut v Rumania in November 1986, and has kept his place since. Not terribly skilful, but hard-working and a forceful personality.

MIGUEL TENDILLO. Central defender. Aged 26 (born Dec 1, 1961) with 27 caps. Real Madrid. A teenage starlet who lost his way, but then refound it. Weeks after winning the Recopa with Valencia at just 18, he stood out for Spain in the 1980 European Championship finals. Lost form after the 1982 World Cup flop, and was virtually given away to Murcia when Valencia were relegated in 1986. Returned to form at Murcia, and was bought by Madrid to replace long-term injury victim Antonio Maceda. Has done so well at Real alongside Sanchis that this tandem could well be used by Munoz in Germany.

JOSE ANTONIO CAMACHO. Left back. Aged 33 (born June 8, 1955) with a record 77 caps. Real Madrid. Captain of both Real and Spain, although not now a regular in either side, partly due to recent injuries. Has not played for the national team since last April. Doubtful if he will make the trip to Germany, after publicly fuelling the rumour that his friend Arconada's return to national colours had been vetoed because of his earlier militancy. But if so, his leadership and experience will be sorely missed. Was almost forced to quit the game after damaging knee ligaments in a 1978 training accident.

JULIO ALBERTO. Full name: Julio Alberto Morena. Left back. Aged 29 (born Oct 7, 1958) with 35 caps. Barcelona. Outstanding going forward down the left. Impressed in the 1984 European Championship, and has been a fixture ever since. Signed by Barca from Atletico Madrid in 1982.

LUIS MARIA LOPEZ REKARTE. Full-back. Aged 26 (born March 26, 1962) with two caps. Real Sociedad. A late developer. Has stood out as an attacking left-back since signed by his home town club from Alaves in 1985. Made Spain debut v. East Germany this January. Can also play on the right.

VICTOR. Full name: Victor Munoz. Midfielder. Aged 31 (born March 15, 1987) with 56 caps. Barcelona. Hard-working and tough-tackling midfielder, who made his Spain debut in the 2-1 win at Wembley in March 1981. Has been a fixture ever since, despite missing the 1982 World Cup through injury.

BY DUNCAN SHAW

GUENO R FORM

JUAN SENOR. Midfielder. Aged 29 (born Aug 26, 1958) with 40 caps. Zaragoza. Another hard-working midfielder who's figured in Munoz's plans since the beginning of his reign, at first as an attacking right-back. As a boy, was rejected by both Real and Atletico Madrid.

MICHEL. Full name: Jose Miguel Gonzalez. Midfielder. Aged 25 (born March 23, 1963) with 24 caps. Real Madrid. Tall right-sided midfielder in masterful form this season, in which he is Real's second top scorer after Hugo Sanchez. Progressed into the Madrid first team and the national U-21 side in 1984, along with Sanchis, Martin Vazquez and Butragueno. Was superlative in the first leg of the 1985 UEFA Cup final against Hungarians Videoton.

RICARDO GALLEGO. Midfielder. Aged 29 (born Feb 8, 1959) with 39 caps. Real Madrid. Elegant and skilful, but not always completely effective. Received criticism for being too slow and ponderous when Real were edged out of the Champions Cup by PSV. Joined Real from Castilla in 1980, and quickly took over the playmaker role from veteran Vicente Del Bosque. Scored a spectacular goal on his Spain debut v Scotland in February 1982. Can also play sweeper, as he did in the 1986 World Cup finals after the injury to Antonio Maceda.

RAFAEL MARTIN VAZQUEZ. Midfielder. Aged 22 (born Sept 25, 1965) with three caps. Real Madrid. Another tall and graceful Real midfielder. Made his first division debut at 18, but then took three years to become a fixture at the Bernabeu. Made Spain debut v Luxembourg in September 1987.

RAFAEL GORDILLO. Midfielder. Aged 31 (born Feb 24, 1957) with 69 caps. Real Madrid. Began as an overlapping left-back down at Betis Sevilla. Impressed at the 1980 European Championship, and has been a fixture for Spain ever since. Turned down all offers to leave Andalucia, until Madrid offered a million pounds in 1985. Has recently had injury problems, but his powerful surges down the left should be on display in Germany.

RAMON CALDERE. Midfielder. Aged 29 (born Jan 16, 1959) with 17 caps. Barcelona. Another left-sided midfielder. Tougher in the tackle than Gordillo, but far less incisive. Was rescued by Terry Venables from the Barca nursery team in 1984. Covered up well for the injured Gordillo in the 1986 World Cup finals.

JOSE FRANCISCO CARRASCO. Forward. Aged 29 (born March 6, 1959) with 35 caps. Barcelona. A highly skilful and accomplished winger, but in poor form this season, rarely entering the penalty area. Scored the goal which was the key to Spain's qualification — a breathtaking, last minute solo effort which secured a 3-2 win away to Austria.

FRANCISCO LLORENTE. Forward. Aged 33 (born May 21, 1965) with one cap. Real Madrid. A winger full of pace and imagination, but short on consistency and experience. Is the nephew of the legendary Real left-winger Gento.

ELOY. Full name: Eloy Olaya Prendes. Forward. Aged 23 (born July 10, 1964) with 11 caps. Sporting Gijon. Diminutive striker who returned to national colours v Scotland after a year's absence. Seems set to sign for Barcelona in the summer.

JULIO SALINAS. Forward. Aged 25 (born Sept 11, 1962) with 15 caps. Atletico Madrid. Tall and powerful, but better on the ground than in the air. More of a false left winger than an orthodox centre-forward, and not the regular goalscorer that Spain need. Was a disaster in the Mexico World Cup, but is still in the reckoning due to a lack of alternative forwards. Signed by Atletico Madrid from Bilbao in 1986.

EMILIO BUTRAGUENO. Forward. Aged 24 (born July 22, 1963) with 30 caps. Real Madrid. Still the Golden Boy of Spanish football, but gradually losing his glitter. The flood of goals of his early years has since dried up to a trickle. Received heavy criticism for failing to make much impact against the experienced PSV defence.

JOSE MARIA BAQUERO. Forward. Aged 25 (born Feb 11, 1963) with four caps. Real Sociedad. Spain's main hope of goals in Germany. A skinny but muscular striker in prolific form this season, second only to Hugo Sanchez in the scorers' table. Made international debut v Austria in October 1987, and the following month banged in a hat-trick in the 5-0 demolition of Albania. Barcelona would love to line him up alongside Gary Lineker next season, but John Toshack's obviously not too keen on the idea.

LAUDR

Tottenham Hotspur, to stay in Denmark.

THE PLAYERS

CAPS AT MAY 20

TROELS RASMUSSEN. Goalkeeper. Aged 27 with 26 caps. AGF Aarhus. Now fully established as the Danes' number one keeper, having succeeded the popular Ole Qvist. An imposing figure at 6ft 4ins but still vulnerable to crosses.

PETER SCHMEICHEL. Goalkeeper. Aged 24 with seven caps. Brondby. His appearances have been made in the Olympic team and sound displays make him the definite No. 2 choice. Linked with Newcastle United earlier in the season.

JOHN SIVEBAEK. Full back/ midfield. Aged 26 with 47 caps. St Etienne. Likely to be in the Danes' starting line-up against Spain. After a troubled stay with Manchester United, he is now finding his best form in France. His ability to switch from defence to attack quickly suits the fast-breaking contra style. Began with Vejle.

MORTEN OLSEN. Sweeper. Aged 38 with 93 caps. Koln. At the age of 38, he could be a liability but Piontek has no obvious successor. Playing in midfield in the Bundesliga but will play at libero for Denmark. His elegant and graceful football has won many admirers over 20 years at the top level with B1901, Cercle Bruges, Racing White and Anderlecht. Denmark's captain.

IVAN NIELSEN. Stopper. Aged 31 with 41 caps. PSV Eindhoven. One of the PSV four, he is extremely experienced in international football. Tough in the tackle and sharp in the air, the Danish defence is increasingly reliant on him. Also played for Fremad Amager and Feyenoord.

JAN HEINTZE. Defender. Aged 24 with four caps. PSV Eindhoven. Forced his way into the national side after years on the fringe. Able to move swiftly into attack like Sivebaek but probably a more secure defender. Previously with Kastrup and Twente Enschede.

SOREN BUSK. Defender. Aged 35 with 57 caps. Wiener Sportklub. Only recently returned from injury and likely to be a replacement at best. Busk has been a stalwart of the Danes in the 1980s but experience can't make him run any faster.

LARS OLSEN. Defender. Aged 27 with 12 caps. Brondby. One for the future and the player Piontek hopes may grow into Morten Olsen's boots. Has gained valuable practice in the Olympic team at libero.

KENT NIELSEN. Defender. Aged 26 with 15 caps. Brondby. As Olsen covers Olsen, so Nielsen covers Ivan Nielsen. A strapping stopper, Kent is on the fringe of the 20, perhaps vying with Busk for a place in the squad.

SOREN LERBY. Midfield. Aged 30 with 63 caps. PSV Eindhoven. One of the Danes' most vital and elegant players. Lerby is at the heart of many attacks and scores valuable goals, too, ten so far for the national team. Experience almost unmatched at the highest level with Ajax, Bayern Munich, Monaco and PSV after leaving Fremad Amager as a 16-year-old.

JAN MOLBY. Midfield. Aged 24 with 28 caps. Liverpool. Ideally in Piontek's starting line-up as the playmaker but a troubled season at Anfield could tell against him. Strong in the tackle and accurate in the pass, Molby's free kick goals went a long way to making sure Denmark qualified. Formerly with Kolding and Ajax.

KLAUS BERGGREN. Midfield. Aged 30 with 43 caps. Torino. Developed into Denmark's destroyer in midfield and will do the man-to-man marking job if necessary. His tackle put Charlie Nicholas out of the Mexico World Cup. Another player approaching 50 caps. Joined Torino from Pisa.

JESPER OLSEN. Winger. Aged 27 with 38 caps. Manchester United. Replete with skill but too often frittered away. Scored in the World Cup match against Spain, then gave away a crucial goal with a terrible pass. It sums up Piontek's dilemma. Said to be unhappy at Old Trafford and has never found the hurly burly of English league football ideal. Formerly with Ajax and Naestved.

PER FRIMANN. Winger. Aged 26 with 13 caps. AGF Aarhus. Returned home to Denmark and AGF recently and has an outside chance of being in the squad. Gained an unwanted niche in Danish soccer history this season by being played in an Olympic qualifier only to find he was ineligible. It cost the Danes a trip to Seoul and DBU boss Erik Hyldstrup his job.

JOHN JENSEN. Midfield. Aged 22 with 11 caps. Brondby. Denmark's Player of the Year in 1987, Jensen could figure if Arnesen is ruled out by injury and Piontek won't gamble on Jesper Olsen. An ever-improving young player, he is strongly linked with Hamburg.

JOHN LAURIDSEN. Midfield. Aged 29 with 27 caps. Espanol. After two years in the international wilderness, he could make a late comeback for the championships after helping his club reach the UEFA Cup Final. An adaptable and experienced player, he has always been, perhaps, the ideal substitute.

JOHN HELT. Midfield. Aged 28 with 15 caps. Lyngby. A strong marker in midfield who impressed greatly in the Danes'

BY DERICK ALLSOP

KER IS
CLASS

with two caps. Liverpool. Everton to Aston Villa, £300,000, May 1983; to Liverpool £375,000, Sept 1985. Played his forceful part in Liverpool's Championship success and march to the FA Cup final.

PETER REID. Aged 31 (born June 10, 1956) with 12 caps. Everton. Clubs: Bolton to Everton, £60,000, Dec 1982. Vital influence on Everton's fortunes in recent seasons after injury seemingly ruined his career.

BRYAN ROBSON. Midfield Aged 31 (born Jan 11, 1957) with 63 caps (21 goals). Man United. Clubs: West Bromwich Albion to Man United, £1.500,000, Oct 1981. Inspirational captain and magnificent all-rounder. Second only to Gary Lineker in England's current list of goalscorers. Determined to lead his country through the ropean Championship finals after slocated shoulder forced him to ke an early exit from the Mexico rld Cup finals. Skippered United heir FA Cup triumphs of 1983 and 5.

REVOR STEVEN. Midfield. Aged 24 (born Sept 21, 1963) ith 20 caps (three goals) Everton. Clubs: Burnley to Everton, £325,000, June 1983; Operates wide on the right, a hard-working, creator and scorer of goals. Everton's top scorer with 14 goals (10 of them penalties) on way to collecting his second Championship medal last season. Also a member of FA Cup and Cup-winners' Cup winning sides.

NEIL WEBB. Midfield. Aged 24 (born July 30, 1963) with five caps. Nottm Forest. Clubs: Reading to Portsmouth, £87,500, June 1982; to Nottm Forest, £250,000, May 1985. Became the 100th player to be capped by England when he made his debut as substitute n this season's opening ternational, away to West rmany.

OHN BARNES. Winger. Aged 24 (born Jamaica, Nov 7, 1963) 36 caps (6 goals). Liverpool. s: Sudbury Court (Middlesex e) to Watford, July 1981; to ool, £900,000, June 1987. of the Year, star of Liverpool's cast. Responded superbly to llenge and stage Liverpool l. Re-established in ional side after being shaded Waddle. Scored spectacular l for England, a solo effort razil at the Maracana in 4.

R BEARDSLEY. ard. Aged 27 (born Jan vith 21 caps (four goals) l. Clubs: Carlisle U to r Whitecaps, March 1982; ited, Sept 1982, fee of efunded when he returned ver, Jan 1983; to Newcastle, £120,000, Sept 1983; to Liverpool, £1,900,000, July 1987. The most expensive signing in British football, a distinction previously held by Bryan Robson. Uneasy start at Anfield compared with Barnes', but found his form and confidence to play his part in Liverpool's phenomenal season. Scorer of outstanding goals, including the one that clinched the title for his club.k Equally important, he is also unselfish provider of goals. Has developed a great understanding with Gary Lineker. Made captain in Robson's absence against Israel.

TONY COTTEE. Forward. Aged 27 (born July 11, 1965) with three caps. West Ham. No previous club — joined West Ham as an apprentice. An alert, dangerous striker, he has managed to impress England manager Bobby Robson despite his club's struggles in the First Divsion.

MARK HATELEY. Centre forward. Aged 26 (born Feb 7, 1961) with 27 caps (nine goals). Monaco. Clubs: Coventry to Portsmouth, £190,000 May 1983; to AC Milan £915,000, June 1984; to Monaco, £1,000,000 June 1987. After three seasons in the Italian league, he moved to French football with England colleague Glenn Hoddle last summer. A double hernia operation interrupted his season, but returned to lead the attack in Monaco's bid for the Championship. Tall, powerful in the air, and a determined competitor

GARY LINEKER. Striker. Aged 27 (born, Nov 30, 1960) with 29 caps (24 goals). Barcelona. Clubs: Leicester to Everton, June 1985, original fee of £80,000 increased to £1.1m after subsequent transfer; to Barcelona, £2,750,000, June 1986. Became Britain's record-fee player when, after the 1986 World Cup, in which he was top scorer with six goals, he signed for Terry Venables' Barcelona. Had a 40-goal season with Everton but found life more difficult in Spain. In international football, however, he has maintained a strike rate of more than 80 per cent, a remarkable standard in the modern game.

CHRIS WADDLE. Wing. Aged 27 (born Dec 14, 1960) with 31 caps (four goals). Tottenham. Clubs: Tow Law Town to Newcastle, £2,000; to Tottenham, £590,000, 1985. Former sausage factory worker, he was rejected as a trialist by Sunderland. Newcastle plucked him out of non-league football and he eventually emerged from the shadow of Kevin Keegan.

Right: PETER BEARDSLEY

Ruud Gullit

SPOTLIGHT ON HOLLAND

DU ON

HOLLAND are back on the international stage for the first time since 1980 hoping to repeat their successes of the 1974 and 1978 World Cups.

In the 1970s a unique generation of players, led by Johan Cruyff, dragged Dutch football out of obscurity. Holland had never achieved anything of note before, but at the 1974 World Cup their dazzling total football took them to the final.

There they lost 2-1 to the hosts, Franz Beckenbauer's West Germans. In 1978 a more ordinary Dutch team also lost the World Cup final to the home team, Argentina.

There are striking similarities between the 1974 side and the current team.

The manager is Rinus Michels again, the style of play is total football (though now a less adventurous version of it), the tournament is being staged in West Germany, and again none of the Dutch team has ever played at a World Cup or a European Championship before.

This is because the Dutch missed the World Cups of 1982 and 1986 and the European Championships of 1984. The first half of the 1980s was a bad time for Dutch football. The 1970s men had grown old, and their successors were still too young.

They were young indeed. Ruud Gullit, Frank Rijkaard, Gerald Vanenburg, Wim Kieft and Marco van Basten all made their international debuts as teenagers — the first three actually in the same match, against Switzerland in 1981.

Many other members of the current squad also made their debuts under Kees Rijvers, Michels's predecessor as manager. Rijvers blooded men like Ronald and Erwin Koeman, Sonny Silooy, Adrie van Tiggelen and Jan Wouters. But the Dutch team lacked spirit and tenacity, and the line-up and even the styles of play changed regularly.

The turning point came on October 15, 1986. Holland were opening their European Championship qualifying campaign with an away match against Hungary. The Dutch won 1-0, playing very professionally. The side stayed together and overcame Hungary, Greece, Poland and Cyprus to top their group.

At one point it had seemed that hooliganism would cost them qualification. During the home match against Cyprus, when a win would have been enough for Holland to book their tickets to Germany, a fan threw a bomb at the Cypriot goalkeeper.

The keeper went off injured. It was in the third minute of the match, with the score at 1-0 for Holland. After an hour the match was resumed and Holland went on to win 8-0.

However, UEFA decided to award Cyprus a 3-0 'paper' victory. Holland appealed successfully, and the match was replayed in an empty stadium. Holland won 4-0, gaining qualification after all.

It is a pity that the final step was overshadowed in this way, because Holland had won their group in style.

They finished with 14 points from eight games, having scored 15 goals and conceded just one. Of their last twelve internationals, they have won seven and drawn five.

The Dutch hinted at what they are capable of in the March friendly against England at Wembley. There, without some key players and clearly taking things easily, the Dutch had by far the best of a 2-2 draw.

They showed why Johan Cruyff had said: "Skill-wise, the Dutch are as good as any team in the tournament."

Holland's second goal, scored by Johnny Bosman after a build-up of 22 passes, was typical of their controlled but positive football. They used the entire width of the pitch and moved endlessly off the ball.

Even before Player A had passed to B, C was already running into space in anticipation of B's pass.

"Holland are capable of winning the championships," Bobby Robson admitted afterwards.

Sweeper Ronald Koeman, the man of the precise crossfield passes, agreed: "Our time has come."

THE MANAGER

RINUS MICHELS. Aged 60 (born February 9, 1928). A very experienced manager. Nicknamed 'The General' or 'The Sphinx', because of his harshness and inscrutability. Made the famous remark "Football is war". Spent his playing career at Ajax Amsterdam, as a centre-forward during the 1940s and 1950s, and won five caps. JOS was his first club as a manager. He moved to Ajax in 1965, and shaped Ajaz's great team of the early 1970s, with players like Johan Cruyff, Johan Neeskens and Piet Keizer. Left Ajax for Barcelona, taking Cruyff and Neeskens with him. Managed Dutch national side during the 1974 World Cup, when Holland took second place. In 1975 he returned to Ajax, and later went to the US to manage the LA Aztecs. Came back to Europe in 1980 to take over at Cologne, but left the German club after quarrelling with top players. He became Holland manager again, but in February 1985 he suffered a heart attack and had to leave football for a while. Returned in time to take charge of Holland's European Championship qualifying campaign. After the championships Thijs Libregts will replace him — Michels is going to Bayer Leverkusen of West Germany.

BY SIMON KUPER

TCH NOT A E MAN TEAM

THE PLAYERS

CAPS AT MAY 20

HANS VAN BREUKELEN. Goalkeeper. Aged 31 (born October 4, 1956) with 33 caps, the most in this squad. PSV Eindhoven. Began his career at Utrecht in 1976, and joined Nottingham Forest in 1982. After two years under Brian Clough moved to PSV. International debut against West Germany in October 1980, but went to 1980 European Championships as Holland's third goalkeeper — he is the only player in the current squad ever to have been at an international tournament. Has won three successive championships with PSV, but because the side is so strong he gets frustratingly little work. A perfectionist: when team training ends he continues alone.

JOOP HIELE. Goalkeeper. Aged 29 (born Christmas Day, 1958) with three caps.Feyenoord Rotterdam. Has played for Feyenoord since he was twelve, but now wants to leave. Holland debut against Ireland in 1980: he had a poor game and Holland lost 2-1. Has been Van Breukelen's understudy for years, and should remain on the bench during the championships.

ADRIE VAN TIGGELEN. Defender. Aged 30 (born June 16, 1957) with 21 caps. Anderlecht. Can play anywhere in defence. Sparta Rotterdam was his first club. He moved to Groningen in 1983 and shortly afterwards made his debut for Holland. Joined Anderlecht in 1986, turning down offers from Ajax and PSV. Has a regular place in the national team.

SJAAK TROOST. Fullback. Aged 28 (born August 29, 1959) with three caps.Feyenoord. Came to Feyenoord as a ten-year-old. Holland debut in September 1987 against Belgium. Played perfectly in the March friendly against England, closing down Beardsley, Lineker and Hateley in succession.

RONALD KOEMAN. Sweeper. Aged 25 (born March 21, 1963) with 20 caps. PSV. Dutch Player of the Year for 1987. Holland's vice-captain, and after Gullit the most influential player in the team. Made his professional debut with Groningen, moved on to Ajax, and from there went to PSV. Possesses a beautiful crossfield pass and an extremely powerful shot. International debut (in April 1983) was a disaster; Holland lost 0-3 at home to Sweden. Involved in a row in April after praising dirty football and UEFA banned him for one match.

DANNY BLIND. Fullback. Aged 26 (born August 1, 1961) with three caps. Ajax. Joined Ajax from Sparta Rotterdam in 1986, after making international debut against Scotland that year. Last played for Holland in September 1986.

FRANK RIJKAARD. Defender-midfielder. Aged 25 (born September 30, 1962) with 24 caps. Zaragoza. Started his career with Ajax in 1979. Two years later he made his Holland debut against Switzerland — in that match he was replaced at half-time by his childhood friend Ruud Gullit, also making his international debut. Classic display against Hungary in 1985 established him in national side. In September 1987 walked out at Ajax after a dispute with manager Johan Cruyff. After six months without football he signed for Sporting Lisbon, who sent him on loan to Zaragoza.

ARON WINTER. Defender-midfielder. Aged 21 (born March 1, 1967) with five caps. Ajax. Born in Surinam, but moved to Holland as a child. Joined Ajax from an amateur club in 1986. In 1986-7, his first season in professional football, he made his debut for Holland (against Greece) and won the Cup Winners Cup with Ajax.

PETER BOSZ. Defender-midfielder. Aged 24 (born November 21, 1963), uncapped. RKC Waalwijk. Key member of RKC side which won promotion to the premier division this season.

JAN WOUTERS. Midfielder. Aged 27 (born July 17, 1960) with 12 caps. Ajax. His first club was Utrecht, and during his time there he made his national team debut, against France in 1982. At the time his selection was seen as a mistake. In 1986 went to Ajax. Now Wouters is a regular international. This despite his bowed legs: a doctor once advised him to have them broken, so that they could grow straight again.

ARNOLD MUHREN. Midfielder. Aged 37 (born June 2, 1951) with 14 caps. Ajax. Started his career 19 years ago with Volendam, then moved to Ajax but, unlike his brother Gerrit, he was usually a reserve during the club's golden years of the early 1970s. Left for Twente, and then Bobby Robson signed him for Ipswich. Later had a spell with Manchester United, and in 1985 rejoined Ajax. He did so well there that he soon won a place in the national team, for whom he had made his debut in 1978.

ERWIN KOEMAN. Defender-midfielder. Aged 26 (born September, 1961) with eightcaps. KV Mechelen. Brother of sweeper Ronald. Groningen was his first club, and after a brief period at PSV he returned there in 1982. Koeman's father, Martin, is now Groningen's manager. Erwin joined Mechelen in 1985.

BERRY VAN AERLE. Defender-midfielder. Aged 25 (born December 8, 1962) with four caps. PSV. Started out at PSV seven years ago, but for a long time seemed unsure of himself in Eindhoven. In 1986 PSV sent him on loan to Antwerp. This season he returned to his old club, but now with new-found confidence. He soon won a place in the national team. On his style of play he says: "There are workers and thinkers. I'm a worker."

HENDRIE KRUZEN. Midfielder. Aged 23 (born November 24, 1964) with two caps. Den Bosch. Made his professional debut at the age of 15 with Heracles Almelo. Later he moved to Den Bosch. Played his first match for Holland in December 1987 against Greece. In Germany he may find himself substituting for the aged and tiring Muhren.

GERALD VANENBURG. Midfielder. Aged 24 (born March 5, 1964) with 20 caps. PSV. Despite his youth an experienced professional. Quickly won a place in Ajax's first team, and a month after turning 18 made his debut for Holland. His Brazilian-like skill won him the nickname Geraldinho, a film was made of him, but he was an inconsistent player, so in 1986 Ajax let him go to PSV. There his game has revived. Barcelona made him an offer, but he has signed a new long-term contract with PSV.

RUUD GULLIT. Midfielder-striker. Aged 25 (born September 1, 1962) with 32 caps. Milan. Holland's captain and key player. Started his professional career with Haarlem aged 16, and on his 19th birthday made his Holland debut against Switzerland. When still a teenager was followed by Ipswich, Arsenal and Manchester United. He moved through Feyenoord and PSV to Milan, who paid 5.5 million for him. European Footballer of the year for 1987 and World Soccer's World Player of the Year.

JOHNNY VAN'T SCHIP. Winger. Aged 24 (born November 30, 1963 in Canada) with 13 caps. Ajax. Right-footed, but plays on the left wing for Holland. For years only Ajax manager Johan Cruyff saw anything in him, but lately Van't Schip's play has vindicated Cruyff's support. International debut in 1986 against Scotland. Denmark's Soren Lerby is his (step) father-in-law.

JOHN BOSMAN. Striker. Aged 23 (born February 1, 1965) with nine caps. Ajax. Debut for Ajax in 1983, and for Holland in 1986 against Scotland. Scored five goals in bomb-disrupted 8-0 victory over Cyprus in October 1987, and headed a hat trick when match was replayed. Also scored with a header in March friendly against England. Top scorer of all European tournaments in 1987, with eight Cup Winners Cup goals.

MARCO VAN BASTEN. Striker. Aged 23 (born October 31, 1964) with 18 caps. Milan. The complete striker. Established himself at very young age: international debut at 18. Played for Ajax until 1987, and in each of his last four seasons with them was top scorer of Holland. Won Golden Boot for European top scorer in 1986. Went to Milan with Gullit this season but was out for months with ankle injuries.

WIM KIEFT. Striker. Aged 25 (born November 12, 1962) with 14 caps. PSV. Started with Ajax, and at age 19 won the Golden Boot for European top scorer. After spells in Italy with Pisa and Torino, returned to Holland last summer to play for PSV.

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SPOTLIGHT ON USSR

WILL S UNION

FOR A nation of such size, such resources and such international power, it is remarkable how the national football team of the Soviet Union appear to freeze so consistently on big occasions.

Not that senior sports officials in Moscow are oblivious to the fact. How could they be? Since the Soviet Union rejoined FIFA after the last war, they have qualified regularly for the finals of the World Cup, yet their best finish remains the fourth place acquired in England in 1966.

In the European championship, the Soviets were inaugural winners in 1960 and then runners-up in 1964 and 1972 as well as fourth in 1968. But even then, despite the emergence of the brilliant Kiev and Tbilisi club teams over the past decade, they have fallen away in recent years. The European finals were expanded to eight teams in 1980 yet the Soviets failed to qualify either then or in France four years later.

Even in the World Cup finals in Mexico last year the Soviets proved a let down. They also proved, incidentally, that the teams which start World Cups in the most spectacular fashion usually run out of steam long before the end.

The Soviets thrashed Hungary 6-0 in their first game, impressed in the 1-1 draw with France which followed, and then strolled to a 2-0 win over Canada. That sent them into the second round where they were favourites against Belgium. But, despite leading, they were pulled back by Belgian spirit, their own over confidence and two debatable offside decisions. In the end they lost one of the finest matches in the finals by 4-3 in extra time.

Yet, less than a month before the finals, the Soviets had appeared in turmoil. They had suffered a string of poor results in warm-up games against Spain, England, Rumania and Finland and manager Eduard Malofeyev had been replaced — at the last minute — by Kiev club boss, Valeri Lobanovsky.

The managerial switch came in the wake of Kiev's brilliant victory over Atletico Madrid in the Cup-winners' Cup final and Lobanovsky brought more of his own men into the national team squad — eventually taking 12 Kiev stars with him to Mexico. It would have been 13 had central defender Sergei Baltacha not suffered a recurrence of a knee injury during the Cup-winners' Cup final.

But while the Soviet Union came home comparatively early from Mexico, their real achievement lay in recasting the image of Soviet football. For years their teams had been well-drilled, very fit but lacking inspiration — save for occasional stars such as Igor Netto or Valeri Voronin. The latter provoked such envy that he was kicked out of the game by jealous, anonymous officials.

For years the only Soviet 'name' was goalkeper Lev Yashin. It was not until the mid-1960s, when the top clubs first began to compete in European competition, that the true breadth of Soviet soccer was revealed. After the likes of Moscow Spartak and Dynamo — the latter becoming, in the 1972 Cup-winners' Cup, the first Soviet side to reach a European club final — along came Tbilisi and Kiev.

In 1975 Kiev won the Cup-winners' Cup in thrilling style, beating Ferencvaros of Hungary 3-0 in Basel. Later, in 1981, Tbilisi beat Carl Zeiss Jena of East Germany in Düsseldorf to emulate that achievement. Kiev, who had in the meantime also won the Supercup, regained the Cup-winners' trophy last year and promptly surrendered it in vain pursuit of the Champions' Cup.

Kiev shoulder most of the burdens of the Soviet game. Apart from their own international and dometic commitment they also provide most of their first-team to the national squad at both senior and Olympic level. No wonder Kiev were the first club to lodge an application when the supreme sports council let it be known that professionalism would be openly permitted.

This is startling evidence that Mikhail Gorbachev's 'glasnost' policy has trickled through to sport. Kiev officials quickly drafted proposals for professional autonomy — and at the same time set up the first 'professional' transfers of Dnepr stars Gennadi Litovchenko and Oleg Proyasov.

For several years now the Kiev-based Soviet national team has been acknowledged as one of the best in Europe. Better, certainly, than the well-drilled but less talented side which won that first Nations' championship back in Paris in 1960.

In Renat Dassayev, from newly-crowned league champions Moscow Spartak, the Soviets have one of the best goalkeepers in Europe — an obvious and undisputed choice for the Rest of the World team which played the English Football League at Wembley back in August. In front of him, Oleg Kuznetsov, from Kiev, has developed as one of the most reliable of central defenders; club-mates Belanov and Alexander Zavarov two of Europe's most inventive forwards.

The key to success could be the fact that the Soviets will be the freshest team in West Germany. The league finished in mid-November and the new season started only in March. That 4-1 defeat by Italy in March, which reminded the Soviets to clear the rust out of the system, may well prove to have been a blessing in disguise.

THE MANAGER

VALERI LOBANOVSKY. Aged 49 (born January 7, 1939. Long-time coach of Kiev, an appointment he holds in conjunction with that of national team manager — having been rushed to replace Eduard Malofeyev as Soviet supremo just three weeks before the 1986 World Cup finals. There is some doubt about whether Lobanovsky will be in charge of the Soviets at the European finals. In March he was rushed to hospital. First people suggested a heart attack though later it was said he had suffered a 'heart flutter'. Whatever the truth, it was hardly surprising that he should have been taken ill considering the pressure he has been under since taking over the national team in 1986. His predecessor, Malofeyev, former Minsk boss, had been appointed at the start of 1984; he had been a member of the Soviet team who finished fourth in the 1966 World Cup but his managerial position became shaky after successive defeats early this year by England (home) and Rumania (away). It was the last straw when the Soviets could only draw 0-0 at home to Finland in their last warm-up. So Lobanovsky, a former Kiev left-winger, was recalled for his third stint as national manager. Right at the last minute he made sweeping changes in the squad, stepping up the Kiev representation from seven to 12. It would no doubt have been 13 had not centre-back Sergei Baltacha been ruled out at the last moment by injury. It says much for Lobanovsky and Kiev that the Moscow-dominated federation have decided to maintain him in his dual roles since the World Cup. Lobanovsky himself played twice for the Soviet Union, then spent a year with Chernomorets Odessa and another two with Shakhtyor Donetsk before retiring. He managed Dnepr from 1968 to 1973 when he returned to Kiev as boss. After the 1975 Cup-winners' Cup victory Kiev were turned into the national team en bloc but the pressure of fulfilling fixtures in league, European club competition, the Olympics and World Cup qualifiers proved too much. Lobanovsky's stars went into eclipse as the team fell apart under the pressure. But he rebuilt both team and personal reputation and was a managerial aide to Konstantin Beskov at the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain. Lobanovsky is the leading Soviet exponent of the application of scientific theory and computer programming to training patterns and schedules, methods strongly opposed by the likes of Beskov and Malofeyev. Lobanovsky has a contract as national manager until 1990, a fact which emerged last year when West German club Hamburg asked the Soviet federation in vain for permission to offer him the job of club coach in succession to Ernst Happel.

THE PLAYERS

CAPS AT MAY 20

RINAT DASSAYEV. Goalkeeper. Aged 30 (born June 13, 1957) with 79 caps. Spartak Moscow. Generally rated the world's No 1 goalkeeper, never mind Shilton, Schumacher, Pfaff etc. Born at Astrakhan and called the New Yashin. Kept goal for the Soviet team who finished third in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow and was voted Footballer of the Year a few months later. With only two goals conceded he was top keeper in the 1982 World Cup European qualifying rounds and enhanced his reputation in Spain in the finals and then again in the Mexico World Cup two years ago. Made his Spartak debut as a substitute in May 1979 and his senior international debut just four months later in a 1-0 win over East Germany. Yet he began his career as a centre-forward. Dassayev was suspended for three games in 1983 for forgetting to attend a supporters' presentation ceremony. Was voted Footballer of the Year for a second time in 1982. Was linked last year with Manchester United, played in the Football League centenary match at Wembley and is a leading target for several western European sides should the Soviets, as hinted, allow some of their senior stars to move abroad after the European finals.

VIKTOR CHANOV. Goalkeeper. Aged 28 (born July 21, 1959) with six caps. Kiev. Chanov made his name with the miners' club, Shakhtyor Donetsk and was transferred to Kiev in the winter of 1981-2. He — and younger brother Vyacheslav Chanov — were the Soviets' reserve goalkeepers to Rinat Dassayev at the 1982 World Cup finals. Viktor was then forced out of the Kiev team by the equally promising Mikhail Mikhailov. Chanov regained his club place in time to share in the 1986 Cup-winners' Cup triumph over Atletico Madrid. He was again World Cup reserve to Spartak's Dassayev at the World Cup finals in Mexico.

DIMITRI KHARIN. Goalkeeper. Aged 20 (born 1968). Moscow Dynamo. The Olympic team keeper and rated one of the best young goalkeepers in Europe. Joined Dynamo during the winter close-season from Torpedo after a row with the Torpedo coach, veteran former international Valentin Ivanov.

ALEXANDER BUBNOV. Fullback. Aged 32 (born October 10, 1955) with 34 caps. Spartak. Can also play stopper but is considered a little slow on the turn. Played most of his career with neighbours Dynamo Moscow but transferred by order of the federation six years ago when it appeared as if Dynamo were in danger of relegation. Bubnov played once in the last World Cup finals, against Canada like club-mate Morozov.

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

SOVIET FREEZE?

Alexander Zavarov

VYACHESLAV SUKRISTOV. Fullback. Aged 27 (born 1961) with two caps. Zhalgiris Vilnius. Made his international debut in the 4-0 win over Greece earlier this year. Also an Olympic international. The key man last season when the surprise Lithuanian club, Zhalgiris, finished a best-ever third in the championship.

ANATOLY DEMIANENKO. Fullback or midfield. Aged 29 (born Feb 19, 1959) with 64 caps. Kiev. Voted 1985 Footballer of the Year after providing much of the drive which led Kiev to the Soviet league title that season. Signed from Dnepr in 1978. Demianenko was originally a fullback but has shown that he can also play in midfield and score useful goals. Played in all five of the Soviet Union's matches in the 1982 World Cup finals and all four in Mexico. He was one of the stars of Kiev's 1986 Cup-winners' Cup win over Atletico Madrid, taking over the captaincy midway through the game from the injured Baltacha and carrying off the Cup.

ANDREI BAL. Centre back. Aged 30 (born Feb 16, 1958) with 19 caps. Kiev. Signed from Karpaty Lvov in 1975. Earned a surprising recall to the Soviet squad after Lobanovsky took over just before the last World Cup. Bal owed his place not merely to Lobanovsky but to the fact that club-mate Baltacha, a fellow central defender, had aggravated a knee injury in the Cup-winners' Cup final and could not regain fitness in time for Mexico. Previously Bal had not played for the Soviet Union since the 2-0 win over Poland in October 1983 in the last European championship qualifiers.

SERGEI BALTACHA. Centre-back. Aged 30 (born Feb 17, 1958) with 45 caps. Kiev club captain who missed out at the last moment on a trip to Mexico for the World Cup finals when he aggravated a knee injury in the Cup-winners' Cup final victory over Atletico Madrid. Signed from Karkhov in 1977. Good in the air and has a particularly good defensive understanding with Bal — appropriately, since their birthdays are two days apart (Bal is one day older).

OLEG KUZNETSOV. Stopper. Aged 25 (born March 22, 1963) with 25 caps. Kiev. Another of the successful proteges being continually brought off the Ukraine talent conveyor belt by Kiev coach Lobanovski. Quickly became an invaluable member both of the Kiev team and of the national squad because of his defensive versatility. Played in all four of the Soviets' matches at the Mexico World Cup.

TENQIZ SULAKVELIDZE. Rightback or defensive midfield. Aged 30 (born July 23, 1957) with 48 caps. Tbilisi Dynamo. Experienced veteran of Tbilisi's successful Cup-winners' Cup campaign in 1981. Back in favour after being over-looked for the 1986 World Cup, having been a regular in Spain four years earlier.

VLADIMIR BESSONOV. Sweeper or rightback. Aged 30 (born March 5, 1958) with 69 caps. Kiev. Signed from Karkhov in 1976 and captained the Soviet Union to victory in the inaugural World Youth Cup in Tunisia a year later when he was voted the tournament's top player. Was originally a midfielder and had responsibility thrust upon him in 1980 after team-mate Alexander Berezhnoi was banned for life for drunkenness . . . Bessonov starred in the Soviet team which finished third in the Moscow Olympics, also in 1980, and then moved back with success to sweeper. His career has been interrupted by several badly-timed injuries. Was linked with Oxford last year.

VAGHIZ KHIDIATULIN. Central defender/defensive midfield. Aged 29 (born March 3, 1959) with 44 caps. Moscow Spartak. Returned to Spartak a year ago after five years with TSKA Moscow, ultimately in the second division, while nominally on 'military duties'. Climaxed his first division comeback with a fine goal from a free kick which earned Spartak a 1-0 win over Kiev. Currently under the shadow of a four-match European club ban after being sent off playing for Spartak against Toulouse last autumn in a second round, second leg UEFA Cup-tie. Spartak won 5-1 but Khidiatulin got off lightly — Frenchman Eric Bellus, with whom he had a scrap, was banned for seven games. Khidiatulin was originally discovered for Spartak by coach Konstantin Beskov and helped the Soviet Union win the inaugural World Youth Cup in Tunisia in 1977. There has always been a questionmark against his temperament however. He was suspended for ten league games in 1982 for threatening a referee. A knee injury then kept him out of the World Cup finals in Spain after he had played for the Soviets' last warm-up — a 1-1 draw away to Sweden. Strangely, it was in the 0-0 draw against Sweden in the autumn of 1986 that Khidiatulin made his national team comeback . . . four years and two World Cups later. Has been lined up for a transfer to French club Toulouse after the European finals.

SERGEI GOTSMANOV. Midfield. Aged 29 (born Mar 27, 1959) with 25 caps. Minsk Dynamo. One of only two players to have appeared in all six of the Soviets' qualifying matches for the Los Angeles Olympics — from which they then withdrew. Made his senior international debut as a substitute in a 1-0 home defeat by Czechoslovakia in 1984. Scored in the Soviets' 2-0 win over England at Wembley in that same year, after coming on as a 19th-minute substitute for Zigmantovich.

SERGEI ALEINIKOV. Midfield. Aged 26 (born November 7, 1961) with 41 caps. Minsk Dynamo. Skilful, creative midfield player. Played in most of the 1984 Olympic qualifying matches, made his senior international debut in a 2-1 defeat by West Germany in the spring of that year and has hardly missed a game since.

ANDREI ZIGMANTOVICH. Midfield. Aged 25 (born December 7, 1962) with 18 caps. Minsk Dynamo. Made his international debut in an unlucky 2-1 defeat by West Germany in the spring of 1984. Another of controversial former national boss Eduard Malofeyev's own proteges from Minsk and paid the penalty when he was dropped from the 1986 World Cup squad on the eve of the trip to Mexico after Malofeyev was replaced as manager by Lobanovsky.

GENNADI LITOVCHENKO. Midfield. Aged 24 (born September 11, 1963) with 31 caps. Kiev — whom he joined this past winter from Dnepr along with Protasov. Litovchenko had previously joined Onepr from minor local side Mettalurg. He struggled for three years but coach Vladimir Yemets kept faith in him and in 1982, against Minsk, Litovchenko turned the corner. Dnepr were losing 1-0 when Litovchenko scored two fine goals. The following season he was voted Footballer of the Year when Dnepr won the championship for the first time in their history. Scored on his international debut against West Germany in the spring of 1984 but missed a vital penalty against Bordeaux in the Champions' Cup quarter-finals in 1985. Bordeaux went on to win and enter the semi-finals instead.

ALEXEI MIKHAILICHENKO. Midfield. Aged 25 (born 1963) with six caps (all won since the last World Cup). Kiev. Forced his way into the national team in the second half of the 1986 season with his goals when the World Cup men began to tire and was one of the stars of the Soviet Olympic XI which successfully defended the Nehru Cup at the start of last year in India. Scored several vital goals in the European qualifiers.

ALEXANDER ZAVAROV. Midfield. Aged 27 (born April 26, 1961 at Voroshilovgrad) with 23 caps. Kiev. The 1986 Footballer of the Year. Began playing football at the age of seven and was a Soviet champion for his age-group team when only 11. Lobanovsky first tried to sign him for Kiev when Zavarov was 18 and playing for SKA in 1979. Zavarov refused then and three years later it appeared

● Continued on page 56

SPOTLIGHT ON EIRE

CHARLT ARE UN

STUTTGART'S Neckarstadion on June 12 will be centre stage for a glorious day in the history of Republic of Ireland football as they start a match in the finals of a major football championship for the first time.

England, of all nations, are the first opponents in the Euro 88 finals Group 2.

To many distant observers, the Irish may now have reached a peak and will have little chance of progress, representing the minnows of the qualifiers. But facts and form tell a different story. This Republic of Ireland squad could very well surprise all Europe in Germany this summer.

In results over the last calendar year (1987), Ireland were the best team in Europe, gaining a better percentage of results than any other nation. Results which included crucial qualifying victories over Scotland at Hampden Park and then Bulgaria at Dublin's Lansdowne Road, with a nice defeat of Brazil last May crowning a fine year.

It has been disparagingly said that Scotland did Ireland a great service in beating Bulgaria in Sofia last November. And quite logical that is, but is that not something that Bulgars should cry about. If it doesn't sound too Irish, the team which earns the most points wins the group: Republic of Ireland 11, Bulgaria 10.

In November 1984, the Republic of Ireland were embarrassingly trounced 4-1 at home by Denmark to reach a nadir which hadn't been seen in over a decade. Three months later, the Football Association of Ireland inadvertently appointed Jack Charlton as national team manager.

Charlton, a big man in size and character, brought authority, discipline and belief to a talented squad which had always flattered to deceive previously. Charlton didn't need the job. He wanted it. He was fed up with club management which gave him no time to himself. The international scene puts him at the summit of football management with as much time off as he could want. The best of both world's.

Probably Charlton's greatest asset is his patent fearlessness. He doesn't need this job for the money, which isn't very much, anyway. He wants it because it gives him the ultimate challenge in management, and if it doesn't work out he can simply afford to get the sack or resign.

His huge knowledge of the international game has provided him with his own philosophy on how to play against the continentals with a squad of players who play their football in the less technical leagues of Britain. It is quite simple, but the players must be prepared to give their all and work flat out for the duration of the game. They are told to chase the ball hard while picking up the opponents' targetmen. It is a team effort. The opposition must not be given space and time to 'play'.

When Ireland are in possession, as little football as possible is to be played at the back. No messing about. The midfield is told not to dwell on the ball for too long and giving it over the top rather than on the ground where Charlton believes continental defenders are best. But get the ball in behind them and they don't defend too well.

Ideally the ball should be played into space behind the fullbacks forcing the central defence wide thus leaving gaps in the advancing midfield. It works, but it is not pretty. It has been noticed, in fairness, that as the players have become more adept at playing this system, the team has slowly become fluid and confident and the style a little less unpalatable to the purists, with just a little bit more 'football' being played.

There is no star in the Irish team, because it is a team. There are several notable players of the likes of Houghton, McGrath and Whelan who are recognised as world class. But they must play the Charlton way and if that means McGrath in midfield and Whelan at left-back, so be it.

The loss of Mark Lawrenson and Liam Brady has not in the least dented the hopes of the squad. Lawrenson has retired to manage Oxford following injury while Brady is suspended for the first two games, but at this moment his serious knee injury, even if healed, could present fitness doubts for mid-June.

The team have shown great spirit and heart with a tremendous honesty and willingness to do well. It will compete harder and fairer than any other in Germany this June. And it will be roared on by a fanatical following that will be outnumbered by only the Danes and Dutch of visiting fans.

In qualifying the squad matured greatly. The opening game against Belgium saw the Irish defence hopelessly exposed from corners from which the Belgians scored their two goals. It was a lesson well learned — it hasn't happened again.

Many serious analysts point to the Irish central defence as the Achilles heel of the team. Moran and particularly McCarthy lack pace. Mick McCarthy, now a veritable inspiration to the whole team, had been much exposed during the Mexico '86 World Cup qualifers to this physical handicap, most notably, from my viewpoint, in a game against Denmark in Copenhagen when Elkjaer ghosted past him to score.

But the ball is never settled enough to be played to allow an opponent to run at the Irish defence these days. And otherwise both Moran and McCarthy are authoritative, solid and safe.

Ireland's underdogs tag doesn't impress Charlton — "I'd rather they feared us, just a little," he says.

The most recent results over Rumania (2-0) and Yugoslavia (2-0) should have given the other finalists fair warning. By the time you read this the results of Ireland's other two preparatory matches at home to Poland and in Norway will be known. It should extend to ten, an unbeaten record, and possibly nine wins on the trot.

The likely team will probably be — Bonner; Anderson, McCarthy, Moran, Whelan; Houghton, McGrath, Sheridan, Sheedy or Galvin; Stapleton, Aldridge. They are no less lacking in skill and technique than England. They won't have the touch of Holland or Italy, but the workrate will better Beckenbauer's Germans and their spirit and fearlessness will frighten the rest. The 'boys in green' will make an impact in these European finals. A semi-final place is a strong possibility.

THE MANAGER

JACK CHARLTON. Aged 52 (born May 8, 1936, in Ashington, Northumberland). As a player he enjoyed a distinguished career as a gangling centre-half with Leeds, breaking the club's appearances record in winning honours stretching from League Championships to an F.A. Cup, a League Cup and two Fairs Cups. In 1967 he was voted Footballer of the Year. With England he won a World Cup winner's medal in 1966 during his 35-match international career.

His managerial apprenticeship began at Middlesbrough, whom he took to promotion to the First Division in 1974, and won for himself the title of Manager of the Year. He later had spells with Sheffield Wednesday and Newcastle United. On February 7, 1986, Charlton officially took charge as manager of the Republic of Ireland national football team. He soon appointed Maurice Setlers as his assistant.

THE PLAYERS

CAPS AT MAY 20

PAT "PACKIE" BONNER. Goalkeeper. Aged 28 (born May 24, 1960) with 22 caps. Celtic. Over the last three years or so Bonner has developed into a world class goalkeeper of great agility and positional sense. Well used to the big occasion with his extensive experience of 'Old Firm' derbies.

GERRY PEYTON. Goalkeeper. Aged 32 (born May 20, 1956) with 23 caps. AFC Bournemouth. Reliable deputy for Bonner, Peyton has been in and out of the Irish squad since February, 1977. Both Bonner and he are experienced, technically good keepers and are eager and motivated in an Irish shirt.

CHRIS MORRIS. Right back. Aged 24 (born Dec 24, 1963) with three caps. Celtic. Came in against Israel last November and had a nervous debut. Was a little more impressive against Rumania and played quite well against Yugoslavia on 27 April. Quick, with a good cross, as you might expect from a converted winger. However, he has yet to be tested defensively in international football.

JOHN ANDERSON. Fullback or central defender. Aged 28 (born Nov 7, 1959) with 15 caps. Newcastle. Solid, deceptively quick and a fine ball-winning tackler. Anderson can play on either flank or in the centre of defence, giving Charlton excellent cover. Usually plays at right back, but will Charlton play him from the start in place of Morris? I would expect so.

ASHLEY GRIMES. Left back. Aged 30 (born Aug 2, 1957) with 18 caps. Luton Town. Has had a good, rewarding season with Luton, culminating in his splendid Cup Final against Arsenal. Can play on the left of midfield also, but he'll hardly be needed there, and if he gets a game it will be at fullback. An excellent left foot, Grimes is very mobile and an intelligent footballer.

CHRIS HUGHTON. Fullback. Aged 29 (born Dec 11, 1958) with 34 caps. Tottenham. Another utility fullback and a popular servant to the Irish team during his nine years in the squad. Unlikely to be in the full strength line-up, but a highly experienced and competent reserve.

KEVIN MORAN. Centre back. Aged 32 (born April 29, 1956) with 34 caps (five goals). Manchester United. A big heart and a rock-hard head make Moran virtually indispensable in the centre of Ireland's defence. Can't get into the United first team, but alongside McCarthy he can't put a foot wrong for Ireland. His head is a lethal weapon from set pieces, particularly corners whence he is fearless in attacking hard hit crosses to, as has been coined, 'exocet' the ball to the net. However, he is limited on the ground, but tackles well and without fear. Indeed, Moran adequately sums up the Charlton philosophy of total commitment, spirit and willingness to do well and, above all, let no-one down.

MICK McCARTHY. Central defender. Aged 29 (born Feb 7, 1959) with 26 caps. Celtic. Dominates the centre of defence and organises everyone within earshot, which is, well, everyone. Very tough, brave and, like Moran, totally fearless.

PAUL McGRATH. Midfield or right-back. Aged 28 (born Dec 4, 1959) with 21

BY PAUL BUTTNER

TON'S MEN IDERDOGS

caps. Man. United. McGrath, who may have left Old Trafford by the time you read this, is one of the key players in the Republic's Euro 88 quest. He had a quiet game on his international return (after five months) against Yugoslavia. He does not like playing in midfield, but Charlton believes he has the touch to compliment his physical strength and pace and persists with him. If it was not for the forced absences of Brady and Lawrenson, McGrath would most likely play at right-back. Recognised as one of Europe's top defenders.

LIAM BRADY. Midfield. Aged 32 (born Feb 13, 1956) with 67 caps (nine goals). West Ham. Due to a two match suspension (reduced from four) Brady is ineligible to play until the Holland game, Ireland's third in Group 2. His serious knee injury may preclude him totally at this time (late April). Charlton says he'll bring him along anyway, ". . . we might need him for the latter stages"! Obviously, Brady's pace is gone and JC doesn't want him attempting to go past people in the centre of the field for fear of dispossession, but instead encourages Brady to use his splendid chipping ability to accurately nip balls over the top of defenders into the path of running-on strikers. Charlton believes continentals are too good generally on the ground for the ball to be threaded through them.

RAY HOUGHTON. Midfield. Aged 26 (born Jan 9, 1962) with 14 caps. Liverpool. Small, quick, aggressive with fine dribbling skill and excellent passing ability, Houghton is another vital cog in the Republic's wheel of fortune. He is the only orthodox right sided player in the squad and he adds much width to the attack. Is the first to admit his international career put him in the spotlight with an eventful transfer to Liverpool and thus a fuller audience on which to exhibit his intensive capabilities.

RONNIE WHELAN. Midfield or left back. Aged 26 (born Sept 25, 1961) with 24 caps. Another player indispensable to the success of the Irish side's progress. May play in the problem position of left-back where he has been superb when asked to play there. Alternatively, he will play on the left of midfield, or perhaps even in the centre. Most solid, pacy with great vision and excellent passing skill. Technically, Whelan is a very good footballer, capable of scoring goals. He also is a fine header of a ball and has a good right foot shot and eye for goal.

KEVIN SHEEDY. Midfield. Aged 28 (born Oct 21, 1959) with 12 caps. Everton. A classy left-sided player, though he prefers a more central role, with a cultured, brilliant left foot. Injury prone, however, and has never played an exceptional game in an Irish shirt . . . yet. His free-kick would be useful to the script in Germany.

TONY GALVIN. Left midfield. Aged 31 (born July 12, 1956) with 22 caps. Sheffield Wednesday. Has lost the pace that he once used to go past fullbacks and whip in fine crosses. A hard working, loyal servant in whom Charlton has shown admirable faith. Plays deeper now and works hard supporting everything down the left flank. It is a contest between Sheedy, Galvin and perhaps young Mark Kelly for the position on the left — assuming, that is, Whelan plays at left-back.

JOHN SHERIDAN. Midfield. Aged 23 (born Oct 1, 1964) with two caps. Leeds. Brady's replacement in the centre of the field. Has looked confident and competent in his two games to date, but needs much more experience before he can fulfill his evident promise on the international stage.

TONY CASCARINO. Striker. Aged 25 (born Sept 1, 1962) with three caps. Millwall. Skilful, mobile and a goalscorer. Wasn't released, as Charlton hoped, for the Yugoslavia match. A possibility for Germany.

LIAM O'BRIEN. Midfield/attack. Aged 24 (born May 5, 1964) with five caps. Manchester United. A capable replacement who has excellent touch for a big man, though he is scarcely quick. A thumping shot in his right foot.

MARK KELLY . Outside-left. Aged 18 (born Sutton, November 11, 1969). Portsmouth. A hugely exciting prospect. He's brave and goes past people in the true tradition of the elusive winger. Not likely to start games in Germany, but watch him when he comes off the bench.

FRANK STAPLETON. Forward. Aged 31 (born July 10, 1956) with 62 caps (18 goals). Derby on loan from Ajax. Captain of the squad. Has been as effective as of old, lacking pace with age and now playing deeper at times. Needs one goal to equal Don Givens goalscoring record of 19. Euro 88 should be his swan song.

JOHN ALDRIDGE. Striker. Aged 29 (born Sept 18, 1958) with 13 caps. Liverpool. Why hasn't he scored for Ireland? An Irish conundrum for Aldridge, what with his excellent ratio for Liverpool. Charlton will keep faith with him for the tireless work he puts in across the front line.

DAVID KELLY. centre-forward. Aged 22 (born Nov 25, 1965) with three caps. Walsall. Scored a marvellous hat-trick on his debut against Israel and then scored again against Rumania. Lively, quick and aggressive, Kelly, will be first forward reserve with Stapleton and Aldridge the likely starting choice.

JOHN BYRNE. Forward. Aged 27 (born Feb 1, 1961) with 13 caps. QPR. Ball-playing striker adaptable to midfield. Not expected to be in a first XI, but a most able replacement, especially due to his versatility.

John Aldridge scores for Liverpool against Luton Town.

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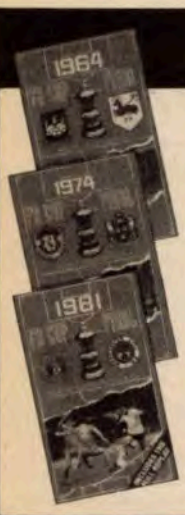

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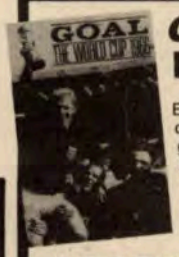

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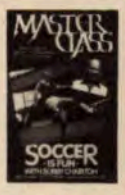

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NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA

from PAUL GARDNER

WITH its splendidly patriotic name, the American Soccer League is now in full operation. If you live in the Eastern USA, that is. For the (Eastern) American Soccer League consists of 10 clubs, all on the eastern seaboard, from Miami up to Boston.

It — and its clubs — talk rather too loudly about the rebirth of professional soccer, but at the same time really make no secret of the fact that this is a semi-pro league.

How could it be otherwise, when each team is limited to a total salary budget of $50,000 for *all* of its 18 players? The salaries, than, are modest, as are the stadiums and the crowds.

Where we used to have the Cosmos packing them in at Giants Stadium in New Jersey, we now have the ASL's New Jersey Eagles drawing crowds of about 2,000 at a high school stadium in Paterson.

But it is all we have, for the moment, and it is serving the vital role of keeping hope alive, and of providing a focus of attention for the sport: regular games, league tables, individual scoring feats and so on, all of which have been dismally absent since the old NASL disappeared from the scene in 1894. The ASL, as it happens, is not wildly enthusiastic about comparisions with the NASL.

It is the ASL's aim to avoid the errors of the NASL, in particular (as that niggardly $50,000 salary cap demonstrates), that of profligacy. Also high up there on the list of NASLisms to be avoided is that of irritating FIFA.

So the ASL will stick to the FIFA substitution rules and there will be no messing about with the offside rule.

There might have been a re-appearance of the NASL's patented 35-yard-line shoot-out as a tie-breaker . . . but the United States Soccer Federation shot that down by heavy hints that "FIFA wouldn't like it."

Instead, the ASL uses what are described as "FIFA penalty kicks" as its tie breaker — something that FIFA may like, but that ASL coaches do not.

"Garbage," said Eagles coach Ed Kelly when asked what he thought of it. "There has to be a better answer than this."

Tampa Bay Rowdie coach Rodney Marsh agrees. Four of his team' first five games went to penalty-kicks, and the Rowdies lost three of them. After the third loss, Marsh walked out of the stadium and wasn't seen for three days.

At the end of the week, he resurfaced, and was fined $700 by his club, coached them against the Eagles, and lost again. On penalty kicks.

With the ASL eschewing the big names, and trying to nurture American players (only three imported players are allowed for each team), the rosters inevitably contain a high proportion of young players who have just left, or are in their final year of, college.

Students

This college atmosphere is pervasive throughout US soccer. The national U-20 team is composed entirely of college students, an academic plus that did not prevent them from suffering a highly embarrassing elimination during the regional qualifying games for the 1989 U-20 World Cup in Saudi Arabia.

Just when everyone is almost hysterically anxious to show FIFA how good we're getting, the U-20s went and lost to Mexico.

Or did they? The score was 2-1 to the Mexicans, but the rumours are that "it ain't over yet." Tales abound that the Mexicans used two or three overage players, and the United States has a posse of gum-shoes digging out the truth. If the US does lodge a protest, and if the Mexicans are thrown out — it will not be a first.

Back in 1979 the USA — having been soundly beaten in the Olympic qualifying games by Mexico — protested that the Mexicans were using professionals.

Considering that the US team was loaded with pseudo-professionals, their fat salaries disguised as "personal-service contracts", it was a thoroughly dishonest business. The Mexicans decided to "withdraw", but some sort of justice triumphed when the US team was prevented from appearing at the Moscow finals by the US boycott.

Overage problems have appeared before in CONCACAF tournaments — as in 1982, when the U-20 champions, Honduras, were found to have no fewer than seven ineligible players. They were sent packing, and it was the USA who went to the 1983 U-20 World Cup — though Costa Rica had made the protest.

Even the senior US national team, which has now qualified for the 1988 Olympic Games, contains a sprinkling of college players — plus a mixture of pros from the indoor league, semi-pros from the ASL — and the "overseas" contingent, players who are with foreign clubs, eg Brent Goulet of Bournemouth (England), Paul Caligiuri (Meppen, West German 2nd division) and Eric Eichmann who is on amateur forms with Werder Bremen.

Also in the squad is Bruce Murray who has just completed four years at Clemson University, and for whom Juventus are rumoured to have offered half a million dollars.

Talking of the Major Indoor Soccer League: its never very convincing image as a thriving league took a nasty knock recently when it threatened to go out of business unless the players union agreed to cut each team's salary cap from $1.275 million down to $875,000.

No sooner had agreement been reached on that, than the San Diego Sockers (arguably the league's strongest team) announced that they were going into voluntary bankruptcy under an arrangement that follows them to continue operating while they "regroup" financially.

It would surprise no-one if the problem-plagued St Louis Steamers followed them.

The Americans will be going to Seoul. They qualified for the Olympic finals when El Salvador lost 1-0 at home to Trinidad and Tobago.

PROBL
IN BRA

from Eric Weil

BRAZILIAN soccer has all the problems at the moment . . . In Sao Paulo two clubs are being boycotted by their league rivals while in Rio, popular Flamengo threaten to withdraw from the league because of the dirty play and Fluminense's Paraguayan international, Julio Cesar Romero wants to call a players strike for the same reason . . . while a league referee is in hospital with AIDS.

The two clubs due to be relegated to the second division of the Sao Paulo state league, Ponte Preta and Union Bandierantes, went to court and won their case (inexplicably) to stay in the first division, but rivals are not turning up to play against them in a position which has not yet been satisfactorily resolved.

Meanwhile, it has also been found that one of the league's referees, Roberto Nunes Morgado, who has been in hospital since February, has AIDS.

Flamengo, Rio's most popular club, threatened to withdraw from its state league in protest of the violent soccer which has left them with a series of injuries, including that of Zico and leading scorer Renato.

The threat came after a match against America in which Renato was "hunted" from the word go and finally had to leave the match injured after 40 minutes while Zico, after being fouled continuously, was finally kicked on his injured knee and also had to go off. After the match Zico said he would retire at the end of the season.

Fluminense star Romero called for a players strike against this violent play about which referees were doing nothing.

"Brazilian referees are the worst in the world, because they don't know what to do to stop the dirty play," he said and proposed that foreign referees should be engaged for the Brazilian championship while the regional championships, which bring together teams of vastly different skills, should be scrapped as they are the main reason for the rough play.

Fans were getting violent too . . . Fed up with the poor performances of their team, Botafogo, in the Rio league they threw a smoke bomb at the team's reserve bench, injuring the reserve goalkeeper.

ARGENTINA: Leading teams seemed to tire as the National A Division reached it final stage with just six games to go.

Three-point leaders Newell's Old Boys (44 points) are also leading scorers with 53 goals and have the best defence with 20 goals against after 32 games and they look like the favourites to take the title to Rosario for the second year running — Rosario Central were last year's champions but they seem to be running out of steam.

Their leading challengers — San Lorenzo (41), Racing Club Avellaneda (39) and River Plate (39) — appear to be in the same boat however after having played right through the hot summer.

Racing Club, who started the tournament in a whirlwind and had their rivals worried with their all-out attacking game, have shown the biggest transformation into a jaded team. (In last month's World Soccer we mentioned their having stopped taking a special vitamin compound also said to have contained a drug not on the prohibited list).

A good bet to put in a serious challenge yet could be River Plate who seem to have finally come to terms with the more defensive play dictated by their coach, Carlos Griguol, but they are erratic.

Leading

They are five points from the top, but unbeaten in their last five games from which they have taken eight of a possible 10 points.

Leaders Newell's Old Boys had the longest unbeaten streak of 11 games at press time, but it included seven draws and a good indication of the way leading teams are faring were their most recent matches when all the top four stumbled to poor 0-0 draws against lowly opposition.

A week earlier the top two, Newell's and San Lorenzo, also played to a poor 0-0 draw in Rosario where a youngster was killed in a pre-match battle between rival groups of fans although witnesses stated that he was shot dead by a policeman . . . and it is not the first time this has happened while crowd incidents continue weekly and no arrests are made.

COLOMBIA: The first stage of the Colombian professional league finished with champions Millionarios, Pereira and Nacional winning the three five-team groups.

EMS ZIL

Now they are playing in a three-team final round, in which Nacional had already beaten Pereira 1-0, while the three runners-up of each group, the three third-placed teams and so on also play in triangular tournaments to determine final placings.

The champions of this stage get one bonus point, the second three-quarters, the third half and the fourth (winner of the second three-team group) gets a quarter point to take into the end of season final round.

The playing system was changed this year because of the inclusion of a 15th team in the league, Sporting of Barranquilla who finished second in their group.

The Cali classic between America and Deportivo was a violent affair finishing in a 1-1 draw, three players sent off and seven receiving yellow cards.

URUGUAY: Penarol, the current Libertadores Cup holders, lead the "Competencia" championship by one point, having won their five games.

In this tournament, played before the first divison championship, the 13 clubs play each other once and the winner qualifies for the end-of-season "Liguilla" play-off to qualify two team's for next year's Libertadores Cup.

During the close season 26 more first division players were "exported" to foreign clubs — seven to Colombia, six to Honduras, five to Eucador and others to Brazil, Chile, Greece, Paraguay, Guatemala, Spain and France and with fewer and fewer star players left gates are dropping to a very low level again.

ECUADOR: Sociedad Deportiva Aucas top the 18-team first division led by their Uruguayan midfielder Carlos Berrueta who is also the tournament's top scorer.

Meanwhile, last year's champions, Barcelona, continue in the doldrums in 10th place in spite of having spent a lot of money to strengthen their team at the beginning of the season and a number of changes are in the offing. The first, already taken, was the cancellation of the contract of Argentine player Sergio Otero.

CHILE: The 40-club "DIGEDER" Cup tournament is in progress which includes all first and second division clubs and two special rules.

All drawn matches are decided by post-match penalties and a team winning a match by three or more goals gets three points instead of the usual two.

The pre-season tournament, in which all 40 clubs play each other, has been criticised by leading clubs as being too tiring and financially unfavourable.

BOLIVIA: The Strongest of La Paz were due to face Oriente Petrolero of Santa Cruz and destroyers of Santa Cruz were to clash with Litoral of Laz Paz in the two-legged semi-finals of the professional league.

The four teams had taken the top two places in the two four-team groups of the final round. The eventual winner was due to qualify for the Libertadores Cup together with Bolivar who had won the first round of the championship from which the top eight went into the final round.

The Blooming-Oriente Petrolero 3-3 draw was suspended for over an hour after the referee and linesman were attacked by spectators and had to be given first aid. Referee Luis Barranco said he continued the match later "out of respect for the spectators" (?)

PARAGUAY: the first division has been increased to 12 clubs with the promotion of San Lorenzo and River Plate and no relegation.

Defending champions Cerro Proteño — who line up the same team as last season without Brazilian Robson, but two new Brazilians, Gilson and Zuca — are third, three points behind leaders Sol de America after six games.

VENEZUELA: champions Maritimo won the qualifying round of the professional league from which the top eight teams go into a final round.

The other seven are Caracas FC, Portuguesa, Zamora, Tachira, Pepeganga, Mineros, and Lara.

SUPERCUP contenders ... River Plate. Standing: Jorge Borelli, Ernesto Corti, Nelson Guttierez, Nery Pumpido, Oscar Ruggeri, Pablo Erbin. Front: Antonio Alzamendi, Pedro Troglio, Jorge Da Silva, Omar Palma, Claudio Caniggia. Picture: REX GOWAR.

Juarez goal clinches Peru championship

UNIVERSITARIO DE DEPORTES beat Lima rivals Alianza 1-0 to become Peruvian champions for the 17th time with Fidel Juarez scoring the only goal.

This was the decider between the winners of Peru's two championships, the regional and the decentralised tournaments and both teams had already qualified for this year's Libertadores Cup by virtue of winning these titles . . . but the match had special importance apart from deciding the destination of the 1987 championship.

Both teams had previously won the championship 16 times and the winner, Universitario, now took the over-all lead in title wins, but most people were rooting for Alianza.

Alianza Lima had just won the decentralised championship just over three months since losing their first team squad of 16 players in an air accident in which a total of 45 people died and only the pilot survived. The team were returning from Pucallpa, where they had won a league match 1-0.

Alianza Lima quickly had to assemble a scratch team of reserve players, veterans such as former international Teofilo Cubillas who, at 39, came out of retirement to help his old club as player and organizer — coach Marcos Calderon had also died in the accident — and players on loan from other clubs, notably the quartet of goalkeeper Jose Letelier, Francisco Huerta, Rene Pinto and Parko Quiroz from Chile's Colo Colo.

Somehow it clicked, helped by renewed fan support, and Alianza Lima, who had taken over first place with that 1-0 victory at Pucallpa just before the fateful accident on December 9, stayed at the top to win the Decentralised championship.

In the 2-0 victory over Sporting Cristal on the last day, which kept Alianza a point ahead, Cubillas surprisingly put up another outstanding performance pushing his team continuously.

This brought the first goal scored after 23 minutes by Eugenio La Rosa — another former Peruvian international on loan who had been playing for Argentinos Juniors in Argentina at the time of the accident — while Cubillas himself made victory safe with a second goal 20 minutes after the break.

All the fans at the match — 45,000 — cheered Alianza off the field, even if they were not all followers of the club. The title was a kind of homage for the 16 players and the coach who died . . . and everybody would have loved to see the club win the national title also.

The club's popularity stems from the fact that Alianza Lima are traditionally Lima's black team, drawn from kids playing in the streets of the poor La Victoria district. The club always maintained a special relationship with the slums and many of its

● Continued overleaf

● cont previous page

players continued to live there. It was the fans who raised money to build a stadium for the club in the La Victoria district. Over the entrance they painted the slogan: "Alianza is Peru and Peru is Alianza". The team is often known as "los intimos" (the intimates).

Cubillas, one of Peru's soccer greats, returned to Peru on the day of the plane crash from his home near Miami where he runs a soccer camp. He took over the building of a new Alianza team and raising money for the families of the dead players . . . and he is doing it all for free.

Against a silent tide of racism — among whites, blacks, Mestizos, Asians and the majority of Andean Indians, Alianza are for most an island of hope and their fierce rivalry with Universitario, traditionally supported by the middle class, provide Peru with a peaceful version of confrontation which today is too often played out murderously by Maoist guerrilas and the army.

PERUVIAN CHAMPIONS (since 1926): 17 — Universitario de Deportes; 16 — Alianza Lima; 9 — Sporting Cristal; 6 — Sport Boys; 4 — Dep. Minicipal; 2 — Mariscal Sucre, Atletico Chalaco; 1 — CS Progreso, Defensor Lima, Union Huaral, Melgar FC, Colegio San Agustin.

RETIRED admiral **Carlos Alberto Lacoste,** the Argentine head of the 1978 World Cup finals held in that country who was a FIFA vice-president for a time, has been accused by the Argentine government's administrative investigations bureau of fraudulent administration . . . not for the first time.

The sums questioned by the bureau total 710,000 million dollars and the irregularities mentioned are payments for work and goods far above the market value at the time.

● **Chilean** club **Everton** have been fined 72,000 dollars by **FIFA** for selling their international, **Ivo Bassay** to **French** club **Reims** after having signed a pre-contract for the player's transfer with **Mexico** club, **Atlas.**

● **Venezuela's** champions and vice-champions, **Maritimo** and **Tachira,** were entered for this year's Libertadores Cup only at the last moment when that country's FA lifted their suspension of last year's Professional League championship. The FA had declared the championship illegal in the latest of frequent rifts between the league and FA because of unpaid affiliation fees by the league and because referees not authorised by them had controlled some of the games . . . when the usual referees refused to do so due to payment problems.

● **Chile's** national team, under coach **Orlando Aravena,** was due to start training on April 26 for next year's World Cup qualifying games against **Brazil** and **Venezuela. Chile** was due to play in a triangular tournament with **Canada** and **Greece** in **Toronto** in May.

Fourteen players were called up by coach Aravena — Marco Cornez and Osvaldo Hurtado of Universidad Catolica, Jaime Pizarro and Hugo Rubio of Colo Colo, Patricio Reyes and Roberto Reynero of Universidad de Chile, Eduardo Gomez and Nelson Henriquez of Cobreloa, Ivan Zamorano and Sergio Salgado of Cobresal, Patricio Toledo (Union Española), Ricardo Toro (Palestino), Anibal Gonzalez (no club) and Juan Soto (Naval) — and he said he would add four more later. These are expected to include Sao Paulo (Brazil) goalkeeper Roberto Rojas and Jorge Aravena, his nephew, who is a leading scorer in Colombian soccer.

● **The new 'Joao Havelange' Super Cup,** for past Libertadores Cup winners, took a step into the background when **Uruguay's Peñarol,** the current Libertadores Cup holders and one of the few in-form teams in the tournament, turned up to play the second leg of their first round match against **Argentinos Juniors** and **Beunos Aires.** with 13 reserves because they had sent their first team to play a more lucrative match — against **Portugal's Porto** in a "replay" of last year's Inter-continental Cup match — in the United States.

Even so, the reserves — with a 1-0 lead from the first leg in Montevideo — held out until the 60th minute before their Argentine rivals scored and the goal which put **Argentinos Juniors** into the second round came only nine minutes from the end.

Second round games in this tournament — which have to be completed by July 5 — are: Nacional (Uruguay) v Flamengo (Brazil), Cruzeiro (Brazil) v Argentinos Juniors (Argentina) and Gremio (Brazil) v River Plate (Argentina) or Olimpia (Paraguay). The winners, on aggregate over home and away legs, go into the semi-finals together with Racing Club Avellaneda (Argentina) who have a bye.

AMERICA CLAIM BONUS

GUADALAJARA clubs continue to stand out in the Mexican first division which had eight games to go before the play-offs for which the top two teams of each of four five-team sections qualify.

Universidad de Guadalajara continue with the best record of 42 points from 30 games as group two leaders, while Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara are second in that group, five points back but eight ahead of third-placed Cruz Azul. Defending champions Guadalajara meanwhile top group one with a three-point lead and it looks as if all three Guadalajara clubs will make the play-offs.

Group three leaders America of Mexico City have the second best record (41 points). Peruvian international, Julio Cesar Uribe, who was a leading player for America this season until he walked out complaining that he could not get on with the other players, has been suspended by FIFA from playing anywhere.

America are also claiming the 200,000 dollar bonus from Uribe which he received on signing-on for the 1987-8 season and the return of the fee from Colombian club America from whom he was on loan. Uribe left Mexico in February.

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THUMBS U

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

ARGENTINA: Newells Old Boys win 4-0 away to Racing Cordoba to maintain a three-point lead over San Lorenzo at the top of the table.

AUSTRIA: Rapid win 3-1 away to Vienna to stay eight points clear of old rivals FK Austria.

BELGIUM: Club Brugge win 1-0 away to RWD Molenbeek to edge two points clear. Level on points with Mechelen are Antwerp, who are surprisingly thrashed 6-0 by outgoing champions Anderlecht.

GREECE: OFI are surprisingly beaten 5-1 away by Iraklis so Larissa, 3-0 winners against Ethnikos, stretch their lead to three points over PAOK, who move up into second place.

HOLLAND: Champions-designate PSV rest Van Breukelen, Gerets, Lerby and Kieft and lose 2-0 to Groningen. All four are expected to return for the mid-week Dutch cup semi-final . . . Ajax win 3-1 away to Feyenord thanks to goals from Muhren, Meijer and Bosman.

ITALY: More pressure for Napoli. Diego Maradona scores in their 1-1 draw at Verona (Napoli hand out 3,000 free train tickets for supporters to follow the team) but Milan move to within a point thanks to a 2-0 victory over neighbours Internazionale in the San Siro derby, Gullit and Virdis score the vital goals . . . Juventus hit back from 2-0 down in 40 minutes to draw 2-2 with Sampdoria. Recalled veteran skipper Gaetano Scirea scores the equaliser in the last minute.

PORTUGAL: Porto move eight points clear at the top as they win 1-0 away to Chaves (Rui Barros penalty) and Benfica lose by the same margin to relegation battlers Farense.

RUMANIA: All square at the top — Steaua and Dinamo level on 44 points from 23 games. Steaua pull back from being a goal down at the interval to beat Flacara Moreni 4-1; Dinamo win 2-0 away to ASA Tirgu Mures.

SPAIN: Real Madrid's anger at European Cup failure is vented on Betis. An 80,000 crowd in the Bernabeu sees Madrid win 6-0 to clinch the league crown. Real Sociedad lose 1-0 at home to Murcia, so Madrid move 11 points clear with four games to go. Gallego (his first of the season), Sanchis, Gordillo, Michel (two) and Hugo Sanchez score for Madrid. Sanchez now has 28 for the season but bad news for national manager Munoz is that Chendo and Tendillo are both injured in a collision and may miss the Scotland game.

SWEDEN: IFK are surprisingly beaten 1-0 at home by GIF Sundsvall in the third round of the new season. Oster drop their first point of the season — held 0-0 at home by Djurgaden — but lead the table by one point from Orgryte, GIF and Brage.

SWITZERLAND: Champions Xamax Neuchatel thrash Lausanne 6-1 to stay three points clear of Aarau.

TURKEY: Galatasaray beat Samsunpor 3-0 to move three points clear at the top as pursuers Besiktas lose 2-1 away to Bursaspor, Galatasataray's goals.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: The World Cup qualifying return between Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana has to be postponed because the scheduled venue in Port of Spain is being used for an industrial exhibition. The match is rescheduled for May 8.

YUGOSLAVIA: Leaders Velez Mostar are held 1-1 away to Celik but remain two points clear at the top because pursuers Red Star and Dinamo Zagreb are both held to draws as well.

MONDAY, APRIL 25

FRANCE: Below for West Germany's European title bid as skipper Klaus Allofs travels to Zurich for an operation on a troublesome left knee injury. His French club Marseille say they do not expect him to play again this season.

ITALY: In a charity fund-raiser in Milan, Italy and West Germany draw 3-3 in a repeat of the 1982 World Cup Final. Scirea, Graziani and Altobelli score for Italy; Rummenigge, Reinders and Hrubesch for West Germany. A crowd of 25,000 turn out.

UNITED STATES: San Diego Sockers, one of the most successful members of the MISL, expect to file for 'bankruptcy protection' (a form of buying time to try to resolve financial crisis).

WEST GERMANY: Bayern Munich striker Mark Hughes says, en route to play for Wales in Sweden, that he does not expect to return to Barcelona when his loan expires at the season's end. He says he is undecided about staying with Bayern or returning home to Manchester United

TUESDAY APRIL 26

ARGENTINA: Cesar Menotti says in an interview with the Buenos Aires newspaper, Clarin, that he would jump at the chance of becoming manager of Brazil — if it did not also involve working simultaneously for the Rio club, Fluminense.

FRANCE: Jean-Paul Bertrand-Demanes announced his retirement after 18 years in the game, 11 caps for France in the 1970s and 531 matches for Nantes. Bertrand-Demanes makes his decision after an achilles tendon operation.

HOLLAND: Champions PSV reach the cup final too — hitting back from 2-0 down to beat second division champions RKC — in the semi-finals. Cees Schapendonk and Ad Van de Wiel put RKC ahead; Gillhaus, Lerby and Koeman turn it round for PSV In the other semi-final, Roda beat VVV Venlo 3-1 after extra time.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

ACTION: All but one of the European championship finalists are in action in warm-up matches (Holland are the exception). England draw 0-0 with an experimental defence in Hungary; Denmark lose 1-0 to Austria; Spain are held goalless at home by Scotland; Sweden thrash Wales 4-1; the Soviet Union draw 1-1 in Czechoslovakia; the Irish Republic beat a grumpy Yugoslavia 2-0; West Germany beat Switzerland 1-0; and Italy beat Luxembourg 3-0 then spoil the effect with fighting in the dressing-room corridor. In other matches, Northern Ireland and France draw 0-0 in Belfast . . . in the Olympic qualifiers, Poland and West Germany draw 1-1 before 50,000 in Chorzow; Holland beat Iceland 1-0; Hungary and France draw 2-2; the Soviet Union beat Bulgaria 2-0; and Yugoslavia beat Czechoslavkia 1-0 . . . in the European under-21 semi-finals, second legs, England drew 2-2 with France (and lost 6-4 on agg) and Holland beat Greece 2-0 (but lost 5-2 on agg).

BELGIUM: In the cup semi-finals second legs, Anderlecht beat Mechelen 3-1 (4-3 on agg) and Lierse and Standard Liege draw 0-0 — so Standard win 3-1 overall.

THURSDAY APRIL 28

EAST GERMANY: The newspapar Leipziger Volkszeitung states that more than 20 fans have been arrested in a ten-day police operation to crack down on hooliganism. Of those fans, 13 face charges after the weekend match between Lokomotive Leipzig and Union Berlin.

HUNGARY: Seven England fans are arrested following a brawl at a late-night disco in Budapest.

LUXEMBOURG: International Carlo Weis says he is considering legal advice on whether to sue Gianluca Vialli for allegedly assaulting him after the match in Luxembourg against Italy on Wednesday.

SPAIN: Barcelona's Spanish players (not Schuster or Lineker, of course) sign a statement attacking club president Jose Luis Nunez — saying: "We have all lost confidence in the president, who has disappointed us as people and humilated us as players." . . . officials of the FEF sent public apologies to the Scotland team for a missile attack on their team bus by hooligans after the 0-0 draw with Spain in Madrid.

URUGUAY: Nacional beat Flamengo 3-0 in a Supercup quarter-final first leg. Goals from Lemos and Olivera (two).

FRIDAY APRIL 29

ARGENTINA: The draw is made for the 1989 South American championship, being held in Brazil from July 2 to 16, 1989. Group A: Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela; Group B: Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador. Top two in each group will qualify for the round-robin play-offs.

HOLLAND: The KNVB order Ajax to play the weekend's home match against Haarlem behind closed doors as punishment for the incidents which interrupted the February defeat by PSV Eindhoven

ITALY: Italian federation officials agree, after an initial refusal, to allow live televising of Sunday's Napoli v Milan clash. The change of mind comes in response to a joint plea from local authority and security officials in Naples, concerned that trouble could erupt if television were not available to distract fans without tickets . . . Cesana say they have

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agreed to buy Sweden's new star, Hans Holmqvist, from Young Boys of Bern.

WEST GERMANY: For the first time in 27 years, the ARD and ZDF broadcasting corporations are facing a serious challenge to their Saturday night football monopoly. This comes from a private chain, UFA Film and Fernseh, of Hamburg, who have offered a £55,000 three-year deal. The ARD/ZDF bid is £40 million for three years.

SATURDAY APRIL 30

ARGENTINA: Julio Gordano of Argentina is, predictably, elected as South America's FIFA vice-president at the CONMEBOL congress in Buenos Aires. He succeeds Uruguayan Eduardo Rocca Couture ... the congress also draws up the dates of the South American World Cup qualifiers ... in the domestic league, Newells Old Boys beat Gimnasia y Esgrima 1-0 to stay three points clear of Sam Lorenzo.

BELGIUM: Club Brugge inch further ahead at the top. They beat FC Liege 3-1 but both pursuers, Mechelen (0-0 against Waregem) and Antwerp (1-1 against Beveren), are held to draws. Brugge lead by three points with three games to go.

CUBA: Cuba lose 1-0 at home to Guatemala in a CONCACAF World Cup qualifier. Juan Manuel Davila scores after 43 minutes in front of a 10,000 crowd.

FRANCE: Easy wins for top two Monaco and Bordeaux. Monaco and Bordeaux beat Brest 2-0 (Zlatko Bujovic and Fargeon).

SPAIN: Barcelona beat Real Madrid in a match for prestige, if little else. Star of the show is controversial midfielder Bernd Schuster (bound for Madrid next term?) while Carrasco and Lineker score the goals.

WEST GERMANY: Werder Bremen move six points clear, thanks to a 2-0 win over Borussia Mönchengladbach. Bayern Munich lose 3-1 to Kaiserslautern, while Köln are held 1-1 at home by Eintracht Frankfurt.

SUNDAY, MAY 1

OBITUARY: Louis Maurer, former manager of Switzerland, dies aged 84. Maurer was born on February 21, 1904 in Vevey, playing for Lausanne between 1929 and 1934 as goalkeeper, outside right and centre forward. As coach of FC Zurich he won the championship in 1963, reached the European Cup semi-finals in 1964 and won the league-and-cup double in 1966. He was national manager from October 1970 to November 1971. He also held coaching appointments with Lausanne (1946-50 and 1972-74), Fribourg (1950-57), Tournai (Belgium: 1957-58 and 1960-62), Marseille (1958-59), Luxembourg (1959-60), Zurich (1962-66), Lugano (1966-69), and Bellinzona (1969-70) ... **Rodolfo** Patesko, dies in Brazil, aged 77. Patesko, and outside left, played 14 times for Brazil between his debut in a 3-1 defeat by Spain in Genoa at the 1934 World Cup, and a 1-1 draw against Paraguay in February, 1942.

BRAZIL: Competition resumes in the troubled Sao Paulo championship following the controversial reinstatement of Ponte Preta and Bandeirante on civil court orders after their 'relegation'. The stupidity of the situation is that the court has also awarded both clubs their points from walkover victories so they now lead their respective groups! ... in Rio, Fluminense thrash Americano 5-1 to qualify for the Carioca finals. Washington scores a hat-trick.

GREECE: Larissa beat Iraklis 1-0 to become the first provincial league champions (ie, not from Athens or Salonika) — then sack the manager. He is Jacek Gmoch, a great success with Larissa until now. The board say: "We decided to discontinue cooperation with Mr Gmoch for fear of being betrayed." (Gmoch is expected to take over Olympiakos next season). Larissa have one game remaining and lead PAOK by three points.

HOLLAND: Wim Kieft scores four for PSV in a 6-2 win over Sparta. Ajax, behind closed doors, beat Haarlem 3-0 ... Den Haag are condemned to relegation after losing 3-0 to Groningen.

ITALY: Europe's match of the day sees Dutchman Ruud Gullit taking over the mantle of Maradona as Gullit's Milan beat Napoli 3-2, in Naples. In Turin Juventus beat Torino 2-1 thanks to a last-minute goal from Ian Rush.

WEST GERMANY: Extra treatment is prescribed by UEFA Cup finalists Bayer Leverkusen for the four casualties from the weekend 4-1 defeat by Uerdingen. Coach Eric Ribbeck says he has yet to make a decision on whether to include Tita against Espanol in the first leg of the final in Spain: Tita was sent off for retaliation the previous day in the 4-1 defeat by Bayer Uerdingen.

MONDAY, MAY 2

ARGENTINA: Israel beat Paraguay 1-0 in the opening match of the South American youth championship in Buenos Aires. A 2,000 crowd sees Daniel Niron score the only goal after 38 minutes.

FRANCE: World Cup centre-forward Yannick Stopyra says he will leave Toulouse at the season's end to join Bordeaux ... a change on the rules regarding foreigners: the club presidents announce weekend agreement to scrap the present two-foreigner rule and replace it with a restriction limiting each league team to four players not qualified to play for France (currently players from the old French colonies are not considered foreigners). The rule change proposal must go before the federation in July if it is to be introduced in 1989-90.

HOLLAND: A Dutch federation spokesman says that the relegation of Den Haag (with their notorious hooligan following) may help the fight against terrace violence — "because fewer people will now be interested in following their games."

TUESDAY, MAY 3

HOLLAND: John Bosman, Ajax star at the centre of legal action by French club Toulon over a transfer agreement, says he intends to move to Belgium after the European championship finals. Bosman says he will decide between Anderlecht and Mechelen after the Cup-winners' Cup final. An unsatisfactory situation all round, given that Ajax (and Bosman) will face Mechelen in the Cup-winners' Cup final. Bosman says: "I have no future with Ajax. Belgium will be a stepping stone. I want some experience there before making the big jump to Italy."

ITALY: Milan revive their efforts to prise away Dutchman Frank Rijkaard from Sporting Lisbon ... Napoli appoint 1982 World Cup hero Paolo Rossi as public relations officer ... Torino offer Benfica £1 million for Brazillian World Cup midfielder, Elzo ... FIFA leaders, including general secretary Sepp Blatter and FIFA World Cup organising president Hermann Neuberger, say they are pleased with work in progress at Naples, Milan and Udine ... confusion surrounds Diego Maradona's chances of beating a thigh injury in time to face Fiorentina on Sunday.

SCOTLAND: UEFA's executive, meeting at St Andrews, come up with a stunning solution to the impasse over the European Community freedom of employment legislation. From 1992 all clubs competing in European competition will be allowed a maximum limit for four players not qualified to play for the club's country of origin. This will involve British clubs, above all, in a drastic rethink of their youth development, transfer and finance policies. It will also dramatically restrict the opportunities for Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in making such free use of 'flag of convenience' international players. As UEFA president Jacques Georges says: "If the British FAs want four votes on international bodies then they must be regarded as four separate national federations." The new ruling would not infringe player employment since all EEC clubs would be free to buy as many EEC players as they liked for domestic competition. Only internationally — where EEC nations make up less than one third of UEFA's membership — would they be restricted.

SPAIN: Bayer Leverkusen arrive in Barcelona for the first leg of the UEFA Cup Final without suspended Erich Seckler and injured Thomas Hörster and Christian Schreier. Coach Eric Ribbeck says: "We will aim to get at least one away goal on the break. I would rather lose 2-1 than draw 0-0. In European competition you need journeymen, not artists."

WEST GERMANY: Olympiakos of Piraeus offer £5 million for Schalke's West German midfielder, Olaf Thon. The player says he is impressed by the money but not by Greece as a place to develop his international career. He is expected to sign, instead, for Bayern Munich after discounting other rival offers from Italy and from Spain's Atletico Madrid (who are now likely to step up their interest in Portugal's Rui Aguas) ... Werder Bremen secure the league title thanks to a 1-0 win over Eintracht in Frankfurt with a 70th minute goal from Karl-Heinz Reidle. Bayern Munich, outgoing champions in vain pursuit, thrash Bochum 5-0 thanks to a hat-trick from Mark Hughes.

WEDNESDAY, MAY, 4

ACTION: Espanol of Barcelona beat Bayer Leverkusen 3-0 in the first leg of the UEFA Cup Final ... Hungary beat Iceland 3-0 in a friendly in Budapest ... in the Olympic qualifiers, Hungary beat Ireland 3-1 ... in the South American Supercup, Gremio beat River Plate 1-0 with a goal by Benifca-bound Valdo.

BELGIUM: Antwerp midfield star Frans Van Rooiy alerts bigger clubs to his availability, telling Belgian TV: "It's not that I want to leave Antwerp, but after a lot of talking we do not see eye-to-eye on a new contract. I guess I'm too expensive for them."

FRANCE: Toulon, having given up hope of signing Ajax's John Bosman, agree to buy Hungarian midfielder Gyorgy Bognar for £325,000 from MTK.

HOLLAND: Dutch police announce that plain-clothes 'spotters' will travel with PSV fans to the Champions' Cup final in Stuttgart to help West German police pick out potential trouble-makers.

HUNGARY: Seven England fans arrested in Budapest after a brawl in a disco are released to fly home: four are freed unconditionally, the other three on bail.

ITALY: It's the turn of Verona and Cagliari to get the thumbs-up from FIFA's delegation studying work progress towards the 1990 World Cup finals.

SPAIN: Johan Cryuff signs a £450,000 one-year contract to coach Barcelona next season.

● Continued on page 51

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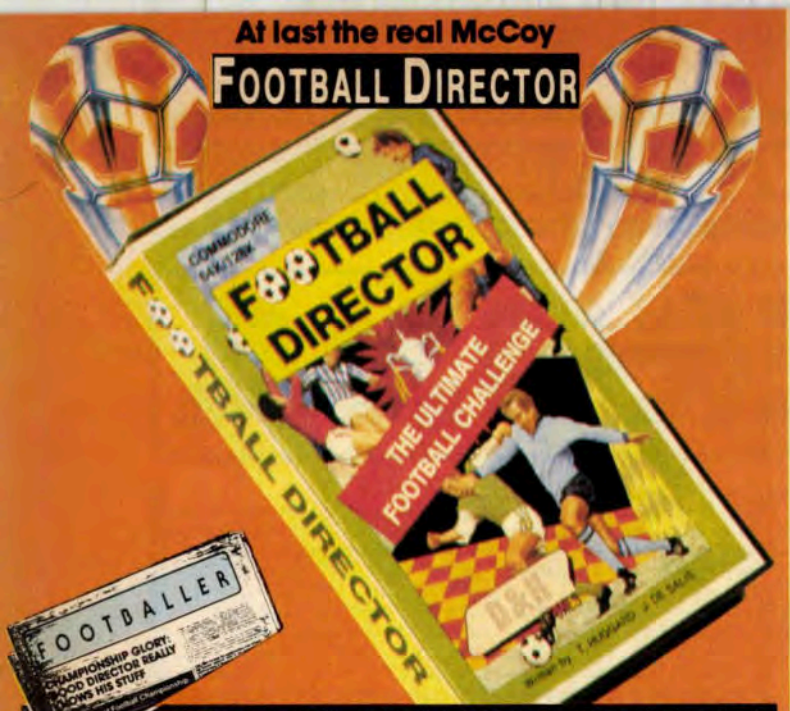

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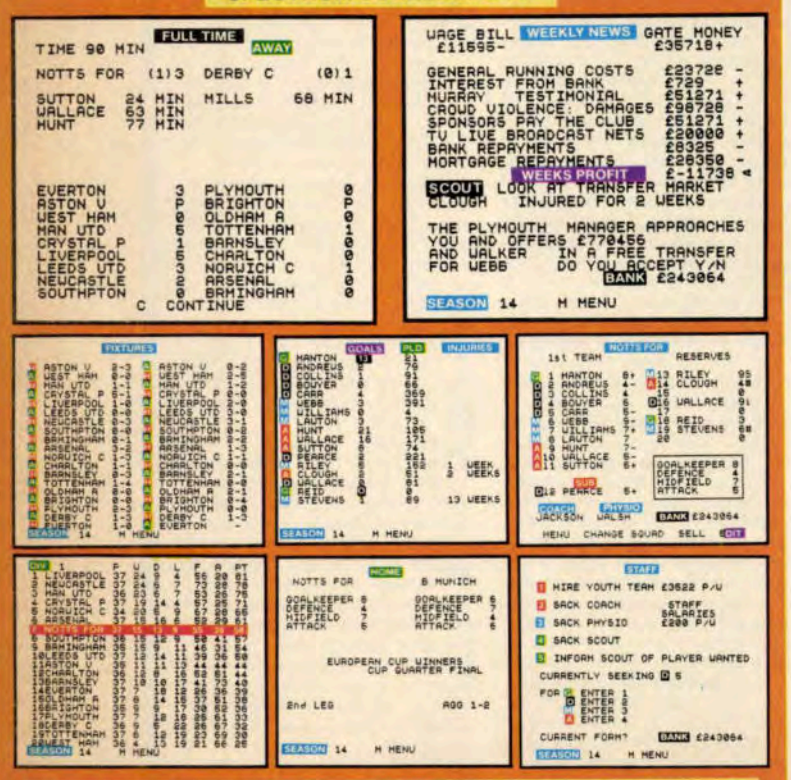

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WORLD SOCCER DIARY

KEIR RADNEDGE'S EXCLUSIVE GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE

YUGOSLAVIA: A tight finish is in prospect to the championhip as Red Star beat Belez 3-1 to pull level with their rivals at the top of the first division with six matches to go.

THURSDAY, MAY 5

HOLLAND: Guss Hiddink, coach to PSV Eindhoven, is scathing about UEFA's new foreigner-limit regulations. He says: "It's a stupid decision. It totally contradicts the needs of the people of Europe and pushes the continent back to attitudes better suited to the middle of the 19th century. If they had that rule now I'd have to leave out half my team. There are going to be a lot of protests and problems."

ITALY: Sampdoria beat Torino 2-0 in the first leg of the cup final.

SATURDAY, MAY 7

FRANCE: Monaco celebrate their already-certain championship after a 1-1 draw away to Nice in their last game. Bordeaux draw 1-1 at Saint-Etienne and finish five points behind in second place.

WEST GERMANY: Köln beat Werder Bremen 2-0 — too late, of course, to have any effect on the championship race but it does pull Köln level on points with second-placed Bayern Munich, who are held goalless away to Bayer Uerdingen. UEFA Cup finalists Bayer Leverkusen lose their third match in eight days: this time by 3-2 away to Hamburg.

SUNDAY, MAY 8

HOLLAND: Last round of matches sees PSV Eindhoven celebrate their third league title in a row with a 4-0 win away to DS Dordrecht. PSV have dropped just nine points in 34 matches. Second are Ajax, nine points adrift after a 2-1 defeat at Groningen, third are Twente Enschede (nine further points behind Ajax.)

ITALY: Milan miss their chance to wrap up the title. Napoli lose 3-2 away to Fiorentina but Milan are held goalless at home by Juventus and so lead now by just two points with one round of matches to go.

SPAIN: All over bar the shouting at the top but the scrap is going full swing at the bottom to beat relegation. Mallorca and Sabadell (joint bottom) snatch an away point each (against Sevilla and Español) to pull level with Las Palmas who suffer a costly defeat, 2-0 at home to Logrones, immediately above them. Betis are also slipping back towards the threatened pack after a 3-1 defeat at Zaragoza.

MONDAY, MAY 9

BRAZIL: Carlos Alberto Da Silva is favourite to be reappointed national manager, according to CBF president Octavio Pinto Guimaraes. Carlos Alberto is currently coach to Cruzeiro. Other candidates include Rubens Minelli and Joao Pinheiro — 1954 World Cup star now in charge at Botafogo.

COLOMBIA: Carlos Valderrama, South American Footballer of the Year, says he has signed for French club Montpellier on a four-year contract.

HOLLAND: Ajax striker John Bosman agrees to pay Toulon £8,000 as an out-of-court costs settlement over his aborted transfer to the French club . . . Feyenoord sign former Poland World Cup winger Wlodek Smolarek from Eintracht Frankfurt.

TUESDAY, MAY 10

FRANCE: Racing rightback Sonny Silooy says he will not be fit to play for Holland at the European finals following a new examination of the right eye socket, damaged in a French cup-tie against Creteil . . . Eric Cantona agrees to join Marseille from Auxerre for a French domestic record of £2million . . . the Nantes World Cup-winning midfielder, Jorge Burruchaga, will be out of action for a further four months after injuring his right knee in a collision at the weekend with Monaco goalkeeper Jea-Luc Ettori. Burruchaga had only recently returned after a serious injury to his left knee.

HUNGARY: Hungary and Denmark draw 2-2 in Budapest. Denmark hit back twice to equalise. The match, however, has limited use for Denmark boss Sepp Piontek because of the absence of the PSV Eindhoven players, who are involved in their Dutch cup final two days later.

ITALY: Milan officials say general agreement has been reached between Sporting Lisbon and Zaragoza for the transfer to Italy at the season's end of Dutch sweeper or midfielder, Frank Rijkaard . . . Turin city council votes against building a new stadium for the 1990 World Cup — further threatening the chances of the city staging any matches at all in the finals.

SOVIET UNION: The Soviets draw 0-0 with Switzerland in an Olympic qualifier. The Soviet Union are already sure of a place in the final in Seoul.

UNITED STATES: The US Olympic Committee formally offers its support for the American bid to host the 1994 World Cup finals.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

ARGENTINA: River Plate beat Gremio 3-1 in a Supercup quarter-final second leg in Buenos Aires. River Plate win 3-2 on aggregate.

BULGARIA: Vitosha beat CSKA Sredets 4-1 in the cup final. Two goals in the last ten minutes from Peter Vitanov seal victory for Vitosha (formerl;y Levsky Spartak).

CANADA: Exiled World Cup stars Ian Bridge (Chaux de Fonds), Randy Sanuel (Volendam) and Craig Forrest (Ipswich) are recalled by Canadian boss Tony Taylor for the Sir Stanley Matthews Tournament in Toronto. Also competing are Greece and Chile.

FRANCE: Mechelen surprisingly win the Cup-winners' Cup, beating Ajax 1-0 in Strasbourg thanks to a goal after 53 minutes from Pieter Den Boer. Ajax have defender Danny Blind sent off after 16 minutes for pulling down Marc Emmers. Back home in Amsterdam 200 Ajax hooligans run riot in the city centre, smashing shop windows and throwing stones at police. It takes 100 riot police an hour to restore order.

ITALY: Napoli nerves begin to crack as the players issue a statement blaming their championship collapse on a lack of communication with coach Ottavio Bianchi . . . the mayor of Turin threatens to quit and the stadium approvals go ahead after all. In another stadium complication, Arrigo Gattai (president of the Italian Olympic Committee) says that if problems over red tape are not sorted out quickly then Rome will be out of the finals reckoning as well.

SWITZERLAND: In the Cup semi-finals Grasshoppers win 2-1 away to Etoile Carouge (after extra time) and second division Schafthausen surprinsgly beat Young Boys 1-0.

WEST GERMANY: Olaf Thon turns his back on lucrative offers from Spain, Italy and Greece to sign for Bayern Munich. The transfer will be completed immediately after the European finals and is worth £1.4million to Thon's club, relegation-bound Schalke.

YUGOSLAVIA: Red Star slump to a surprise 1-0 defeat by Borac of Banja Luka in the Yugoslav cup final. Borac are in the lower half of the regionalised Slav second division — and apparently bound for the third. Nenad Lupic scored the winner on the hour.

THURSDAY, MAY 12

GREECE: Supporters of relegation-bound Panahaiki block two main roads leading to the town of Patras — following the example set by Larissa fans — in protest against an FA disciplinary decision to deduct three points because midfielder Dimitris Gennas played against Panserraikos on April 12 when ineligible. He had been booked three times and should have been serving a one-match suspension. Panahaiki had won the game 4-2 but disciplinary chairman Lefteris Roidis reversed the result and deducted a further point. The decision pushed Panahaiki to the bottom of the table instead of Panserraikos.

HOLLAND: PSV complete the domestic double — beating Roda Kerkrade 3-2 in extra time in the cup final in Tilburg. Soren Lerby scores a 95th-minute winner. Roda are reduced to ten men in the 65th minute when Eugene Hanssen is sent off for a foul on Kieft — but Ronald Koema misses the penalty.

ITALY: Trouble at Napoli. Police have to disperse a group of 300 angry fans intent on insulting Giordano, Bagni, ferrario and Garella, who have been pinpointed as ringleaders of the rebellion against Bianchi. Both Maradona and Careca are absent from training. Another group of fans issue leaflets calling for a supporters' boycott of the decisive last game against Sampdoria — to "show solidarity with Bianchi". Club president Corrado Ferlaino calls the rebellion "inopportrune and incorrect". Bianchi says bitterly: "Once i had a great team and a great Maradona. Now I have only a great Maradona." . . . Sports Minister Franco Carraro warns that political squabbles must be resolved quickly, particularly in Turin and Rome, to facilitate World Cup stadia work . . . Fiorentina may be ready to swap Argentine striker Ramon Diaz for Roma's West German, Rudi Voller. Diax has fallen out with Fiorentina's owning Pontello family . . . Fiorentina midfielder Nicola Berti is ruled out of the European championship by injury.

JAMAICA: Jamaica beat Puerto Rico 1-0 in a World Cup qualifier in Kingston. Dave Brooks scores the winner from a tenth-minute penalty in front of a 36,000 crowd.

FRIDAY, MAY 13

FRANCE: Glenn Hoddle is the star, Marcel the 42nd-minute goalscorer as Monaco beat derby neighbours Nice 1-0 to move seven points clear at the top of the table.

GREECE: Diego Aguirre, the Uruguayan centre-forward Olympiakos signed from Penarol at the end of last year, is banned from playing in Greece for two years for taking illegal amphetamines. Aguirre tells disciplinary officer Giorgos Boutsikos: "I didn't tell anyone because I knew it was prohibited." Thus Olympiakos emerge unscathed. Aguirre is likely to be loaned to Spanish club Gijon . . . more trouble at Patras, with five fans and ten policemen injured in new clashes as protesting supporters set fire to their roadblock barricades.

HOLLAND: The KNVB is to investigate the goalless draw between Pec Zwolle and Volendam the previous Sunday. The draw saved both clubs from possible relegation but condemned AZ Alkmaar, despite Alkmaar's 3-1 win over already-relegated Den Haag. Fans at the match had jeered both Zwolle and Volendam and the match had been questioned by the media. The KNVB has the power to order a replay.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

AUSTRIA: Rapid lose 2-1 away to Sturm Graz but are still a comfortable seven points clear of FK Austria.

BELGIUM: Club Brugge beat struggling Winterslag 3-0, thanks to two goals from Marc Degryse, to clinch the championship with one match remaining. Brugge have the same points as Antwerp but have won three more games. the system used to differentiate between clubs with the same points total.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS. . . INTERNATIONAL RESULTS. . .

TUESDAY, MARCH 29
Mexico City — intl friendly
Mexico 8 (Guzman 2, Zague 2, Mora 2, Sosa, Constantino)
El Salvador 0
HT: 5-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:**Jose Manuel de la Torre (Mex)

Mexico: Chavez — hernandez (Isquivel), Huerta, Osorio, Naranjo, Medina, Sosa (Ramirez), Mora, De la Torre, Guzman (Mariscal), Zague (Constantino).

El Salvador: Garcia (Melendez) — Trigueros, Carcamo, Rivera (Navarro), Abrego, C. Coreas, Cinfuegos, Herrera, S. Coreas (Zapata), Pacheco (Palacios), Ulloa.

MEXICO gained their biggest-ever win over El Salvador, who were only in the game for the first few minutes when they tried to grab a quick goal. From then on Mexico were far superior until they slowed up after scoring the sixth goal early in the second half. Zague, Mexican-born of Brazilian parents, was the pick of the Mexicans

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30
Armenia, Colombia
Colombia 3 (Perea 26, C Valderrama 42, Trellez 74)
Canada 0
HT: 2-0. **At:** 30,000.

Colombia: Higuita (Nino) — Herrera, Escobar, Perea, Hoyos — Alvarez (Ampudia), Garcia, Redin, C. Valderrama 42, Trellez 74)

Canada: Onstad — Sarontopulos, Van Huysen, Limniatis, Jansen — Pignatiello, Fitzgerald, Hooper, Catliff (Laterio), Comissio (Grimes), Disanti.

THE young, experimental Canadian team was no match for the more wily and skilful Colombians. Local boss Francisco Maturana was bringing his men together for the first time since the South American championship last year and preparing for the trip to the United States and Europe. Ironically, considering the Colombians noted preference for ground technique, it was in the air after two corners they they outplayed the Canadians to create their first two goals.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26
Katrineholm — intl friendly
Sweden 0
Norway 0
Att: 1,596. **Ref:** Holstedt (Den)

Sweden: Nilsson (Sven Andersson 46) — Vattovaana, Arnberg, Lö (Svensson 46), Kindlund (Vondenburg 46), Holmberg, Engqvuist, Michael Anderson, Palmer (Jansson 75), Forsberg, Hellström.

Norway: By Rise — Hugo Hansen, Tangen, Johnsen, Halle, Jan Madsen (Holm46), Pedersen, Brandhaug, Rekoal, Bachne (Meinseth 76), Fjortoft (Fjaerestad 46).

A REAL teaser for statisticians. This was a friendly match between the Olympic squads of the two countries. Was it a full international? The Norwegians count it as one, so does it count for Sweden? After all, if it had been a competitive Olympic match then it would not. But there were no competitive restrictions on team selections. Incidentally, don't blame World Soccer for all this; it is just another example that 'caps' figures are a matter for opinion rather than definitive fact. Incidentally this match was played at Katrineholm, because the local authority is a Swedish Olympic sponsor.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27
Vienna — intl friendly
Austria 1 (Berggren og 14)
Denmark 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Neuner (WG)

Austria: Lindenberger — Russ, H. Weber, Pecl, Artner (Werner 82), Zsak, Baumeister (Stöger 67), Willfurth, Pfeffer, A. Ogris (Pacult 78), Polster (Schöttel 89).

Denmark: Rasmussen — Sivebaek, M. Olsen, Busk (B Kristensen 46), Heintze, Berggren, Helt (L. Olsen 65), J. Olsen (B. Laudrup 62), M. Laudrup, Povlsen, C. Nielsen (Lauridsen 46).

DENMARK have looked rocky ever since Spain put five past them in the last World Cup finals. They struggled through their qualifying group and this defeat did little to restore confidence. Austria played some neat football and deserved their own — albeit provided courtesy of an own goal by Klaus Berggren when under pressure from Toni Polster. Berggren came close to an equaliser to make amends when his drive skimmed the bar with 16 minutes remaining. Denmark boss Sepp Pointek said: "I was disappointed with the result but not with the team's performance. We had several good chances to score and not only draw but win the game."

Trnava — intl friendly
Czechoslovakia 1 (Vlk 62)
Soviet Union 1 (Protasov 81)
HT: 0-0. **Att;** 22,036. **Ref:** Frostinger (Aus)

Czechoslovakia: Kostelnik — Kapko, Straka, Chovanec, Vlk — Weiss (K. Kula 82), Hasek, Kubik, Memecek (Grussman 46) — Griga (Luhovy 64), Knoflicek.

S. Union: Dassayev — Sukristov, Kuznetsov (Khidiatulin 46), Baltacha, Damianenko — Litovchenko, Besonov (Sulakvelidze 46), Zararov (Pasulko 76), Rats — Protasov, Dimitrov.

ONLY a late goal by Oleg Protasov earned the Soviets a draw. Czechoslavakia, playing their third match since the return as manager of Josef Venglos, went ahead in the 62nd minute when a volley from Lubomir Vlk caught Dassayev unsighted as the ball flew through a crowd of players. A misjudgment by keeper Kostelnik presented Oleg Protasov with the Soviet equaliser as the Czechs began to tire.

Budapest — intl friendly
Hungary 0
England 0
Att: 35,000. **Ref:** Tritschler (WG)

Hungary: Szendrei — Balogh, Pinter, Roth (I. Varga 63), Kozma, Garaba, Detari, Fitos, Sass, Kiprich (K. Kovacs 83), Vincze.

England: Woods — Anderson, Adams, Pallister, Pearce (Stevens 46) — Steven, McMahon, Robson, Waddle (Hoddle 64) — Lineker (Cottee 83), Beardsley (Hateley 64).

IN all the years of internationals between the countries this was the first draw — and a fair result. Hungary had the better of the first half when the skilful Lajos Detari caused England's inexperienced, makeshift defence a host of problems — including a free kick which struck a post. But in the second half, as the Hungarians began to wilt in the afternoon sun, so England grew stronger and Hungary were several times grateful to the secure goalkeeping of Jozsef Szendrei. England manager Bobby Robson gave a debut to Gary Pallister, from second division promotion candidates Middlesbrough. He adapted quickly and even moved up once and came close to a goal with a 'free' header to a Waddle corner — the ball flying wide. There had been an unfortunate prologue to the match when seven English fans were arrested after fighting broke out in a disco in Budapest.

LUXEMBOURG — intl friendly
Luxembourg 0
Italy 3 (Ferri 23, Bergomi 27, De Agostini 32)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 5,480. **Ref:** Van der Niet (Hol)

Luxembourg: Van Rijswijck — Meunier, Weis, Bossi, Petry, Malget, Jeitz, Barboni, Scholten (Birsens 66), Krings, Reiter (Morocutti 87).

Italy: Zenga — Bergomi, Maldini, F. Baresi (Ferrara 46), Ferri, De Agostini, De Napoli (Fusi 46), Giannini, Donadoni (Rizzitelli 69), Vialli, Mancini.

LUXEMBOURG officials emerged from this match threatening to protest to UEFA and to sue in the courts after scuffling at the final whistle. Luxembourg manager Paul Philipp complained that a fullscale fight had broken out in the players' tunnel because an Italian player (he would not name names, but other reports mention Gianluca Vialli) had grabbed Luxembourg's Carlo Weis by the throat and pushed him to the ground. It all spoiled a comfortable outing for the Italians. Their three goals fell in a nine-minute first half spell. First defender Ferri headed home, Bergomi scored at the second attempt, and then Luigi De Agostini pounced on a rare mistake by keeper John Van Rijswijck. In the 70th minute Vialli clearly elbowed Luxembourg captain Herbert Meunier in the face. Meunier kicked Vialli back five mintues later and was booked. Vialli was booked for a foul on another player and he and Meunier had to be pulled apart at the final whistle.

Belfast — intl friendly
Northern Ireland 0
France 0
Att: 6,250. **Ref:** Cooper (Wal)

N. Ireland: McKnight — Donaghy, Worthington, MClelland, McDonald, D. Wilson, Penney, O'Neill, Clarke, Whiteside (Quinn 40), Dennison (Black 48).

France: Martini — Amoros, Sonor, Casoni, Kastendeuch, Fernandez, Bijotat, Durand, Stopyra, Vercruysse (Ferreri 80), Garande (Fargeon 80).

THE Irish have now gone 37 years without a win against France. But they came close to ending that jinx several times — thanks largely to new winger Kingsley Black. The Luton youngster, who had played a surprise role in the League Cup Final the previous weekend, had been subject of a tug o' war between England and Northern Irleand. Irish boss Billy Bingham had no regrets about his choice — securing him for the Irish cause to good effect. Within seconds of appearing as a second-half substitute he was providing crosses to delight Clarke and Quinn and worry France. Yet the best Irish chance had come in the 17th minute. Robbie Denison prodded Penney's cross beyond Martini only to see Kastendeuch clear off the goal-line.

Dublin — intl friendly
Rep. Ireland 2 (Sheridan 23, Moran 63)
Yugoslavia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Smith (Scot)

Rep. Ireland: Bonner — Morris, Hughton (Anderson 54), McCarthy, Moran, Sheridan,McGrath, Houghton, Stapleton, D. Kelly (Byrne 79), M. Kelly (O'Brien 89).

Yugslovia: Lekovic — Miljus, Baljic, Hadzibegic, *Elsner, Radanovic, Skoro, Jankovic (Boban 78), Mlinaric (Brnovic 78), Bazdarevic, Zlatko Vujuvic. *Elsner sent off, 88.

YUGOSLAVIA gave a first cap to goalkeeper Dragoje Lekovic. He was a steadying influence as captain of the Slavs' World Youth Cup-winning team in Chile last autumn. But nerves got to him on his promotion to join the seniors and he was badly at fault with both Irish goals. In the 23rd minute Lekovic missed the ball completely as John Sheridan curled a corner past him — Mick McCarthy also claiming the goal. Yugoslavia made little impression. The one chance which fell their way was wasted when Skoro shot wide from a Vujovic pass. In the second half Lekovic made a superb save from Stapleton but was then caught in two minds when Moran headed home another dangerous Sheridan corner. One of the best Irish players was 18-year-old left wing Mark Kelly, who was called up late because of Tony Galvin's illness, and who had yet to play a full first-team match for his club, Portsmouth. It was for a crude foul on Kelly in the 88th minute that Slav sweeper Marko Elsner was sent off by referee Smith.

Madrid — intl friendly
Spain 0
Scotland 0
Att: 15,000. Ref: Da Silva Valente (Por).

Spain: Zubizarreta — Tomas, Soler, Sanchis, Victor, Gordillo, Salinas (Eloy 78), Michel, Butragueño, Gallego (Tendillo 46), Martin Vazquez.

Scotland: Leighton — Gough, Nicol, Aitken, McLeish, Gillespie, McCoist (McClair 69), W. Miller, Johnston, McStay, Durrant.

YET another goalless draw though Spain had the best of a patchy match and Michel (twice), Martin Vazquez, Butragueño and Julio Salinas all came close. The best Scotland chance fell to Roy Aitken on the hour but, clear through the centre, he shot wide of Zubizarreta's right-hand post. This was Spain's fourth match of the year but they ended it still seeking a first win in 1988. That frustration was carried over into violence by a group of Spanish Ultra-sur hooligans after the game who bombarded the Scotland bus with missiles and who also attacked former Scotland and Betis manager Jock Wallace and the television commentator Jock Brown.

Stockholm — intl friendly
Sweden 4 (Holmqvist 17, 55, Stromberg 25, Eskilsson 66)
Wales 1 (Hodges 27)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 11,656. **Ref:** Losert (Aus)

Sweden: T. Ravelli — R. Nilsson, Hysen, Larsson, Schiller — Thern, Stromberg (Rehn 80), Prytz, Limpar, Eskilsson, Holmqvist.

Wales: Southall — Phillips (Horne 76), Aizlewood, Jackett, Blackmore, Nicholas (Horne 78), Geraint Williams, Hodges, Saunders (Lowndes 78), Rush, Hughes.

SWEDEN may not have reached the European finals, but England's prospective World Cup rivals are Europe's form team this spring. Having won the West Berlin Easter tournament against West Germany and then the Soviet Union, they continued their confident progress with this comfortable win over Wales. The Welsh were under the caretaker command of Terry Yorath and coach Peter Shreeve. But they were always struggling to keep up. Glenn Stromberg helped lay on the opening goal for Hasse Holmqvist and then scored

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS. . . INTERNATIONAL RESULTS. . .

a superb second himself. Glyn Hodges pulled one back for Wales. But in the second half Sweden pulled away again with goals from Holmqvist and Hans Eskilsson. Wales badly missed the injured Everton defensive duo of Ratcliffe and Van Den Hauwe.

Kaiserslauten — intl friendly
West Germany 1 (Klinsmann 58)
Switzerland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,150. **Ref:** Blankenstein (Hol)

W. Germany: Immel — Herget — Brehme, Kohler, Görtz (Reuter 67) — Matthäus, Roff, Thon (Littbarski 46), Dorfner (Schwabl 80) — Klinsmann, Völler.

Switzerland: Corminboeuf — Andermatt, Tschuppert, M. Weber, Maissen, Perret, Herman, Bickel, Beat Sutter, Zwicker (Turkyilmaz 69), Bonvin.

EUROPEAN hosts West Germany got back onto the winning trail without impressing their fans. But even winning when not playing well underlines the threat they pose in the finals. The Germans kept Switzerland and new keeper Joel Corminboeuf under pressure for most of the match. Rudi Völler missed a glorious chance in the 21st minute after robbing Andermatt and Völler again and Jürgen Klinsmann missed chances in the second half. Also after the interval, however, Klinsmann snatched the only goal after a chip forward from Matthäus surprised the Swiss cover. Switzerland had one last opportunity of their own, but substitute Turkyilmaz mistimed his shot and Reuter cleared off the line.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

Budapest — intl friendly
Hungary 3 (Vincze 44, Sallai 63, K. Kovacs 89)
Iceland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,700. **Ref:** Itzhak (Isrl)

Hungary: P. Disztl — Balogh, Pinter, Garaba — Kozma, Varga (Sallai 46), Fitos, Sass — Kiprich (Esterhazy 46), Bognar (Szasbadi 64), I. Vincze (K. Kovacs 62).

Iceland: Baldursson — Saevar Jonsson, Gislasson, Edvaldsson, Thorkelsson — Thordarsson (Orlygsson 64), Ormzlev, O. Torfasson, Arnthorsson (R. Kristinsson 46) — Margeirsson, G. Torfasson.

HUNGARY after their unproductive afternoon against England, returned to winning (and scoring) way in this, the countries' first-ever international friendly. Apart from winning 3-0, the Hungarians were also clear 'winners' on corners (11-0).

TUESDAY, MAY 10

Budapest — untl friendly
Hungary 2 (Kiprich 14, Bognar 85)
Denmark 2 (Frimann 50, Eriksen 89)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,900. **Ref:** Kaupe (Aus)

Hungary: Meszaros — Pinter, Balogh, Kozma, Varga, Sallai, Varga (Bognar 56), Fitos, Sass, Detari, Kiprich, Vincze (Esterhazy 65).

Denmark: Schmeichal — Sivebaek, M. Olsen (P. Larsen 68), Helt, Busk, Frimann, Andersen, Molby (Povlsen 46), J. Olsen (Jensen 46), Eriksen, Laudrup.

DENMARK may have only just scraped through the European qualifiers but they showed plenty of spirit securing this draw despite the absence of top players such as Lerby, Nielsen, Arnesen and Elkjaer. Hungary went ahead when Attila Pinter lofted a clearance to Sallai on the right. Sallai crossed to Lajos Detari and although the midfielder's shot was blocked the ball ran loose for Kiprich to score. Denmark should have equalised in the 16th minute when Jesper Olsen's cross was headed over the bar by Eriksen. Eriksen had the ball in the net two minutes later when Meszaros palmed down a Molby shot and then fell on the ball. Eriksen tapped it under the body but fell over the keeper and the referee awarded a free kick against the Danes. Denmark made several half-time changes and quickly equalised — Michael Laudrup opening up the Hungarian defence for Per Frimann to score. Hungary regained the lead five minutes from time when Gyorgy Bognar headed home a Marton Esterhazy chip. Once again Denmark displayed all their fighting spirit to equalise: Eriksen shooting home after Footballer of the Year John Jensen had battled for possession in the Hungarian penalty box.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

Miami — intl friendly
United States 0
Colombia 2 (Iguaran 66 and 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,371. **Ref:** Bratsis (US)

United States: Vanole — Diffley, Trittschuh, Doyle, Banks, Davis, Krumpe, Borja (Klopas 46), Gabarra (Eichmann 54), Vermes, Goulet (Murray 54).

Colombia : Higuita — Herrera, Mendoza, Escobar, Hoyos — Alvarez, Garcia, Redin (Trellez 45), Didi Valderrama (Perez 81), Carlos Valderrama — Iguaran.

FOR the Americans this was a warm-up for their Olympic qualifying showdown with El Salvador; for the Colombians it was preparation for the Rous Cup matches against Scotland and England. The Colombians possessed too much experience and skill for the Americans. But it was not until the last 25 minutes that they made those advantages tell in terms of goals — both coming from Iguaran.

TUESDAY, MAY 17

Budapest — intl friendly
Hungary 0
Austria 4 (Marko 19, 78, 89, Hasenhüttl 56)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Prokop (EG)

Hungary: P. Disztl — Sallai, Pinter, Balog, Sass — Fitos, Bognar, Garaba — Kiprich, Detari, Vincze.

Austria: Lindenberger — Pecl, Weber, Artur — Pfeffer, Baumeister, Willfurth, Russ, Zsak — Pacult, Marko. Sub: Hasenhüttl.

AUSTRIA are one of Europe's weaker nations at the moment so this was not a result which cast much value on England's goalless draw in Budapest a couple of weeks earlier. Hungary v Austria is the non-British soccer world's first international fixture. But this was one of Hungary's worst beatings in all the intervening 86 years. Rupert Marko, with a hat-trick, was the Austrian hero to delight new manager Josef Hickersberger. The Hungarian media maintained a stunned silence in defeat, trying as best they could to ignore the game.

Glasgow/Hampden — Intl friendly
Scotland 0
Colombia 0
Att: 20,487. **Ref:** Correia (Port)

Scotland : Leighton — Gough, Nicol, Aitken, McLeish, Miller, Gallacher (Walker 67), McStay, McCoist (D. Ferguson 59), MacLeod, Johnston.

Colombia: Higuita — Herrera, Escobar, Hoyos, Garciua, Carlos Valderrama, Redin, Alvarez, Iguaran, Trellez (Arango 78), Didi Valderrama.

THE Colombians, despite a jet-lagged arrival 36 hours earlier, gave Scotland an embarrassing time in front of a poor crowd and the 0-0 scoreline failed to do them justice. The South Americans displayed their technique on the ball (and lack of it, occasionally, off the ball) but without managing to find their scoring touch. Scotland looked ponderous and unimaginative, which was bad news just a few days before the visit to Wembley. Goalless draws have been Scotland's speciality this past season and if Mo Johnston's header in the 83rd minute had gone in instead of striking the post, it would have been rough on Colombia. Earlier Johnston had been a target for some rugged first-half treatment from Alvarez and Luis Herrera. It was also early on that Columbia came closest, when midfielder Bernardo Redin sent a 25-yard drive just wide of Jim Leighton's left-hand post.

THURSDAY, MAY 19

Helsinki — intl friendly
Finland 1 (Rantanen 38)
Colombia 3 (Arango 19, Higuita 47 pen, Iguaran 63)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,548.

Finland: Huttunen — Lahtinen — Pekonen, Holmgren, Petaja — Aaltonen (Tarkkio 66), Lipponen (Myyry 46), Ukkonen, Hjelm — Patelainen, Rantanen (Luis 80).

Colombia : Higuita — Herrera, Escobar, Perea, Hoyos — Redin, Garcia, Alvarez Carlos Valderrama (Didi Valderrama 78) — Iguaran (Gildardo Gomez 66), Arango (Galeano 78).

COLOMBIA continued their European tour with a victory marked by a second-half penalty conversion from goalkeeper Rene Higuita. The Colombians took the lead against the run of play through Arango in the 19th minute. Finland drew level after 38 when Jari Rantanen, from Leicester, headed a fine equaliser. But Colombia bolstered their confidence before the trip to Wembley with two goals in 16 minutes after the interval — first Higuita's penalty, then a clincher from the inevitable Iguaran. Midfielder star Carlos Valderrama, who is poised to join French club Montpellier, had a quiet time and was substituted by namesake Alexis 'Didi' Valderrama 12 minutes from the end. The only worry for Colombia manager Francisco Maturana was the prospect of coping with England in the air. He said: "We cannot expect to cope with European teams in the air. Against Scotland we could read the game and their passes. Finland did not let us do that. That's why Rantanen caused us problems with his height and power. He would be a sensation in our football back home."

SATURDAY, MAY 21

Belfast — World Cup, Euro gp 6
Northern Ireland 3 (Quinn 14, Penney 23, Clarke 25)
Malta 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Da Silva Valente (Por)

Northern Ireland: McKnight — Donaghy, Worthington, McClelland, McDonald, O'Neill, Penney (McNally 81), D. Wilson, Clarke, Quinn, Dennison (Black 65).

Malta: Cluett — Camilleri (Refalo 46), Azzopardi, Galea, Brincat, Buttigieg, Basuttil, Scerri, Carabott, Scicuna, Degiorgio (Caruana 60).

THIS Was the first qualifying match in Europe for the 1990 World Cup and the result could hardly have been a surprise. Yet the Irish might well have scored more — or even been subject to a nasty shock. A spell of three goals in 11 minutes in the first half secured victory. But they failed to follow up in the second half and that could prove costly if the group is settled in the end on goal difference. Malta had their chances early on, as well, in the tenth minute Carmel Busuttil pounced on a loose ball and shot against a post. Then, seven minutes later, John Buttigieg struck ther bar with a free kick. Irish manager Billy Bingham said: "I thought we would get more goals but I can't be too harsh. Malta worked hard and it was a hot day at the end of our season." Malta's West German coach Horst Heese blamed keeper David Cluett, saying; "He had a black day. When he is on form he is very good but today he had a nightmare after the first goal. Also, Degiorgio wasn't fully fit which meant problems. But I had to play him because of his experience."

Wembley — Rous Cup
England 1 (Beardsley 11)
Scotland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Quiniou (Fr)

England : Shilton — Stevens, Sansom, Webb, Watson, Adams, Robson, Steven (Waddle 72), Beardsley, Lineker, Barnes.

Scotland : Leighton — Gough, Nicol, Aitken, McLeish, Simpson (Burns 74), McStay, McCoist (Gallacher 77), MacLeod, Johnston.

THE fact that England deserved a more handsome victory than 1-0 was the brightest spot at the end of a worrying eight days. First came the failure of much-vaunted Liverpool to live up to the expectations of the publicity machine in the FA Cup Final. Then came Wimbledon's 'mooning' exhibition at Alan Cork's testimonial. Finally, there were 165 arrests before, during and after the first 'London Saturday' meeting of these oldest of rivals for seven years. Beardsley's superbly-taken goal prompted words of praise for England from Scotland boss Andy Roxburgh. He said: "Beardsley comes from God. No coach has produced him." Goalkeeper Jim Leighton, newly-acquired by Manchester United, was Scotland's hero for keeping the scoreline down.

SUNDAY, MAY 22

Dublin — intl friendly
Republic Ireland 3 (Sheedy 12, Cascarino 28, Sheridan 40)
Poland 1 (R. Warzycha 66)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 18,500. **Ref:** Roberts (Scot)

Republic Ireland: Peyton — Morris, Hughton, McGrath (N. Quinn), Moran, Sheridan (Kelly), Whelan, Aldridge, Galvin, Cascarino, Sheedy.

Poland: Wandzik — Kubicki, Wojcicki, Cisek, Lukasik (Bendkowski 26), Komornicki (R. Warzycha), Ziobar, Urban, Prusil, Dziekanowski, Kosecki (Tarasiewicz).

JACK CHARLTON'S Irishmen ran up their record-breaking eighth successive victory in a style and with a confidence to worry all the European championship spies watching from the Lansdowne Road VIP seats — above all, England's Bobby Robson, whose side face the Irish on their arrival in West Germany. First half goals from Sheedy, Cascarino and Sheridan demolished the Poles — who were not helped by the eccentric goalkeeping of Jozef Wandzik. Charlton said: "It concerns me when I read that we are the Wimbledon of the European championship. We

● *Continued overleaf*

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS. . .

● *Continued from previous page*
have some tremendously skilful players, people like Kevin Sheedy and Paul McGrath, who was probably the best player on the pitch."

OTHER MATCHES

March 30: Rumania U21 0, East Germany U21 2.

April 5: Hungary Olympic XI 3, Yugoslavia Olympic 1 — Karlsruhe 3, Hungary 3.

March 13: East Germany U21 2, Bulgaria U21 0.

April 28: Switzerland U21 0, West Germany U21 8.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP
Semi-finals, second legs

Apr 27 — London (Highbury)
England 2 (Gascoigne 5, Carr 59)
France 2 (Cantona 56 and 78)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,661. **Ref:** Van Langenhove (Bel)
France win 6-1 on aggregate

Apr 27 — Utrecht
Holland 2 (Fraeser 60, Rob Witschge 88)
Greece 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Schmidhuber (WG)
Greece 5-2 on aggregate.

SOUTH AMERICA
"JOAO HAVELANGE SUPER CUP"
(for Libertadores Cup winners)
First round — 1st leg
February 24
(in Avellaneda, Argentina)
Racing Club Avellaneda (Argentina) 2 (Iglesias, Colombatti)
Santos (Brazil) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Juan Cardelino (Uruguay)

Racing: Fillol, Vazquez, G. Costas, Astegiano, Olaran, Acuña (F. Costas), Ludueña, Colombatti, Medina Bello, Iglegias, Catalan (Fernandez).

Santos: Rodriquez, Ijui, David, Celso, Luisinho, Sampaio, Ferreira, Lubanor (Macro Antonio), Zizinho, Edson (Juniors), Chicao.

RACING CLUB easily beat a poor and young Santos team which was only just coming off its close season and also lacked the experience of their rivals. Racing got a good performance from their captain, hard-working midfielder Ludueña. Three players were sent off in the second half — Racing's Fernández (75 minute) — only shortly after coming on as a substitute — and Ijui (75) and Zizinho (79) of Santos.

First round — 2nd leg
February 25
(in Belo Horizonte, Brazil)
Cruzeiro (Brazil) 1 (Heriberto)
Independiente (Argentina) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Luis Barrancos (Bolivia).

Cruzeiro: Wellington, Balu, Vilmar, Heraldo, Vladimir, Heriberto, Ademir, Careca (Eder), Robson, Hamilton, Edson.

Independiente: Islas, Clausen, Villaverde, Monzon, Enrique, Giusti, Rios (Ingrao), Merlini (Ramos), Bochini, Navarro, Lobo.

Cruzeiro won 3-1 on aggregate.

INDEPENDIENTE, who needed victory by at least a goal to force an aggregate draw and extra time, were never in the hunt. In the first half Cruzeiro, playing with two wingers well on the wings, had more chances against a badly marking Independiente defence so much so that goalkeeper Islas was the Argentine team's best player. Careca and scorer Heriberto caused the Independiente defence most trouble. Independiente never gave up and got well on top in the final quarter of the game, but they lacked precision close to goal and over-all Cruzeiro deserved victory for better all-round team work.

March 2
First round — 1st leg
(in Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Boca Juniors (Argentina) 1 (Comas)
Gremio (Brazil) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Gaston Castro (Chile).

Boca Juniors: Gatti, Abramovich, Tavares, Cuciuffo, Hrabina, Melgar, Carrizo, Stafuza (Krasouski), Villarreal (Hoyos), Gutierrez, Comas.

Gremio: Mazaroppi, Joao Antonio, Amaral, Luis Eduardo, Ayrton, Cuca, Bonamigo, Cristobao, Valdo, Lima (Serginho), Freitas (Helinho).

COMAS scored Boca's goal after only four minutes, but then they seemed content to hold on to their slender lead and slowed their rhythm, their recent succession of matches — also in summer tournaments — having left players tired. The match was poor with Gremio also not playing well until the latter part of the second half when Boca defended more and more. With six minutes to go, disaster struck Boca when their veteran goalkeeper had to go off with a dislocated shoulder and the two changes had already been made. Boca hung on for the last six minutes with 10 men and an improvised goalkeeper, defender Cucciuffo.

March 3
First round — 2nd leg
(in Santos, Brazil)
Santos (Brazil) 0
Racing Club Avellaneda (Argentina) 0
Att: 5,000. **Ref:** Jorge Orellana, Ecuador.

Santos: Rodriguez, Raul, Nildo, Celso, Luizinho, Sampaio, Junior, Marco Antonio, Edson, Chicao (Ferreira), Edelvan (Tuico).

Racing: Fillol, Vazquez (Saporiti), G. Costas, Fabbri, Olarán, Acuña, Ludueña, Colombatti (L. Coastas), Paz, Medina Bello, Iglegias.

Racing won 2-0 on aggregate.

IT had rained heavily until shortly before the game and, at times, during the first half to leave the field muddy. Racing had a few more scoring chances in the first half, thanks mainly to good work by Ludueña, but they were never on top. The Argentine team seemed to tire in the second half and gave up the initiative to Santos who had more of the ball but lacked danger in attack. Santos played it rough at times and had Marco Antonio sent off 10 minutes before the end.

March 16
(in Porto Alegre, Brazil)
Gremio (Brazil) 2 (Lima, Cuca)
Boca Juniors (Argentina) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Jose Martinez Bazan, Uruguay.

Gremio: Mazaroppi, Alfinete, Amaral, Luis Eduardo, Ayrton, Valdo, Bonamigo, Cuca (Freitas), Cristovao, Lima, Jorge Veras.

Boca Juniors: Genaro, Abramovich, Cuciuffo, Tavares, Hrabina, Melgar, Carrizo, Rinaldi, Graciani (Stafuza), Gutierrez (Hoyos), Comas.

BOCA were hit by an early Lima goal and Cuca added a second before the break to take the aggregate lead. Defender Cuciuffo and goalkeeper Genaro avoided a heavier defeat against the Brazilian team which showed a dangerous attack and solid rearguard.

March 30
First round — 1st leg
(in Buenos Aires)
Estudiantes de la Plata (Argentina) 1 (Gissi)
Flamengo (Brazil) 1 (Bebeto)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Hernán Silva (Chile).

Estudiantes: Battaglia, Craviotto, Iribarren, Agüero, Herrera, Gissi (Peinado), Russo, Trobbiani (Gonzalez), Insua, Cardozo, Gurrieri.

Flamengo: Ze Carlos, Jorginho, Leandro (Ze Carlos II), Edinho, Leonardo, Andrade, Ailton, Henagio (Henrique), Renato, Bebeto, Zinho.

ESTUDIANTES played attacking soccer in the first half while the Brazilians relied more on their undoubtedly superior individual skills. Bebeto's free-kick however gave Flamengo an eight-minute lead. Gissi equalised six minutes later, but the Brazilians dominated more in the second half.

April 5
First round — 2nd leg
(in Rio de Janeiro)
Flamengo (Brazil) 3 (Henrique, Renato, Bebeto)
Estudiantes de la Plata (Argentina) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Juan Ortube (Bolivia).

Flamengo: Ze Carlos, Jorginho, Ze Carlos II, Edinho, Leonardo, Andrade, Ailton, Luis Henrique, (Henacio), Renato, Bebeto, Zinho.

Estudiantes: Battaglia, Craviotto, Iribarren, Agüero, Herrera, Gissi, M. A. Russo, Cardoza, Insua, Trobbiani (A. Russo), Gurrieri.

Flamengo won 4-1 on aggregate

FLAMENGO opened the scoring after only six minutes with an Henrique header. Estudiantes played good soccer, but lacked finishing, while the Brazilians broke through the Estudiantes defence with their individual skills. Estudiantes were closer to scoring in the second half, but Renato made it 2-0 for Flamengo after 67 minutes. Estudiantes then threw everything into attack as their only chance, leaving open spaces in defence for Bebeto to score Flamengo's third just before the end.

April 6
First round — 1st leg
(in Montevideo)
Peñarol (Uruguay) 1 (Herrera)
Argentinos Juniors (Argentina) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Romualdo Arpi (Brazil).

Peñarol: Ferro, Herrera, Rotti, Gonclaves, Rivero, Da Silva, Perdomo, Viero (Matosas), Vidal, Baran, Cabrera.

Argentina Juniors: Goyen, Villalba (Olarticoechea), Lorenzo, Olguin, Mayor, Castillo, Batista, Commisso, Hernández, Castro, Ereros.

ARGENTINOS JUNIORS played a good first half during which they missed several chances, but they went to pieces in the second half and Herrera scored Peñarol's goal in a sharp counter-attack 17 minutes after the break. The barometer was Argentinos midfielder Patricio Hernandez who played an excellent first half, but "disappeared" from the match after the interval.

April 13
First round —1st leg
Olimpia (Paraguay) 2 (Ramirez, Mendoza)
River Plate (Argentina) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Enrique Labo (Peru).

Olimpia: Almeida, Ramirez, Chamas, Villazán, Ortiz, Benitez, Guasch (Miño), Guirland, Gonzalez, Amarilla (Gaona), Mendoza.

River Plate: Pumpido, Borelli (Sallaberry), Gutierrez, Ruggeri, Erbin, Troglio, Corti (Enrique), Palma, Alzamendi, Da Silva, Caniggia.

ALTHOUGH River Plate dominated a bit more in the early stages and dangerous Caniggia hit the woodwork, Olimpia's two quick first half goals after 37 and 41 minutes stimulated the Paraguayan team while their rivals seemed to lose heart. Second half play was even however.

April 15
First round — 2nd leg
Argentinos Juniors (Argentina) 2 (Espindola, Batista)
Peñarol (Uruguay) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Juan Escobar (Paraguay).

Argentinos Juniors: Goyen, Villalba, Lorenzo, Olguin, Mayor, Castillo (Espindola), Batista, Commisso, Castro, P. Hernandez, Ereros (Cataldo).

Peñarol: Siboldi, Umpierrez, Pilas, Goncalves, Santos, Matosas, C. Sanchez, Hernandez, Villar, Gonzalez, Noble.

PEÑAROL sent a junior team — including only first team squad members Goncalves and Matosas — and only 13 players to Buenos Aires for this match, preferring to send their first team to play a more lucrative match against Porto (Portugal) — a replay of last year's Intercontinental Cup match — in the United States. Even so, this team held on to their 1-0 first leg lead for two-thirds of the game before Espindola scored in the 60th minute and Batista's 81-minute goal put Argentinos into the second round.

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS

Feb. 21 — America (Colombia) 2 Peñarol (Uruguay) 1 — in Mar del Plata (Argentina) summer tournament. **Feb. 25** — Universitario de Deportes (Peru) 2 San Lorenzo (Argentina) 1. **Feb. 27** — Dnepr (Soviet Union) 2 Olimpia (Paraguay) 1 — in Montevideo tournament. **Feb. 29** — Peñarol (Uruguay) 0 Dnepr (Soviet Union) 2 — in Montevideo tournament final. **Apr. 17** — Dep. FAS (El Salvador) 0 Un. Chile 1.

OTHER INTERNATIONALS

Mar. 7 — Honduras Select 0 Nacional (Uruguay) 0.

CONCACAF JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP (in Guatamala)

Group 1 — Apr. 9: Costa Rica 3 Jamaica 0; USA 4 Trinidad-Tobago 1. **Apr. 11** — Costa Rica 1 Trinidad-Tobago 1; Guatemala 1 Jamaica 0. **Apr. 13:** Trinidad-Tobago 4 Guatemala 1; Costa Rica 1 USA 0. **Apr. 15:** Costa Rica 4 Guatemala 1; USA 2 Jamaica 1. **Apr. 17** — USA 1 Guatemala 0; Trinidad-Tobago 4 Jamaica 0.

Group 1 final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Costa Rica	4	3	1	0	9	2	7
USA	4	3	0	1	7	3	6
Trinidad-Tobago	4	2	1	1	10	6	5
Guatemala	4	1	0	3	3	9	2
Jamaica	4	0	0	4	1	10	0

(*Costa Rica and USA qualify for final round)

Group 2 — Apr. 10: Cuba 1 Canada 0; Bermuda 2 Dutch West Indies 1. **Apr. 12:** Canada 3 Dutch West Indies 0; Mexico 4 Bermuda 1. **Apr. 14:** Mexico 2 Cuba 0; Canada 1 Bermuda 1. **Apr. 16:** Mexico 7 Dutch West Indies 0; Cuba 2 Bermuda 1. **Apr.**

LEAGUE TABLES . . . LEAGUE TABLES . . .

18: Cuba 1 Dutch West Indies 0; Mexico 2 Canada 2.

Group 2 final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	4	3	1	0	15	3	7
Cuba	4	3	0	1	4	3	6
Canada	4	1	2	1	6	4	4
Bermuda	4	1	1	2	5	8	3
Dutch West Indies	4	0	0	4	1	13	0

(*Mexico and Cuba qualify for final round)

JUNIOR INTERNATIONALS

Apr. 3 — Colombia 2 Canada (seniors) 0. **Apr. 10** — Ecuador 2 Venezuela 0. **Apr. 15** — Paraguay 0 Argentina 0. **Apr. 17** — Paraguay 0 Uruguay 0. **Apr. 18** — Ecuador 1 Peru 0.

OTHER INTERNATIONALS

Apr. 12 — Honduras select 1 Universidad Catolica (Chile) 0. **Apr. 14** — Honduras select 0 Universidad Catolica 0. **Apr. 20** — Maritimo (Venezuela) 1 Puerto Rico select 1.

ARGENTINA

National A Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newell's Old Boys	32	16	12	4	53	20	44
San Lorenzo	32	13	15	4	42	23	41
RC Avellaneda	31	12	15	5	44	30	39
River Plate	32	14	11	7	41	32	39
Gimn y Esg. La Pl	32	10	18	4	39	30	38
Argentinos Juniors	32	14	9	9	45	35	37
Velez Sarsfield	32	13	10	9	45	35	36
Deportivo Español	32	10	16	6	44	38	36
Independiente	32	10	13	9	30	30	33
Rosario Central	32	9	14	9	44	34	32
Ferro Carril Oeste	32	7	17	8	24	26	31
Instituto Córdoba	32	10	11	11	39	47	31
Platense	32	8	14	10	35	40	30
Estud de La Plata	32	6	16	10	27	35	28
Deportivo Armenio	32	6	15	11	29	39	27
Boca Juniors	32	10	7	15	32	50	27
RC Córdoba	32	8	9	15	26	37	25
Banfield	32	6	12	14	26	44	24
Talleres Córdoba	32	4	15	13	35	54	23
Unión Santa Fe	32	4	11	17	26	46	19

Relegation table bottom positions — two teams with lowest points average over last three seasons go down: Deportivo Armenio 0.84; Platenese and Racing Córdoba 0.79; Union 0.76; Bamfield 0.75.

COLOMBIA

Professional League
(1st stage) — final standings

Group 1: 1 Millionarios 11 points; 2 Cucuta 10; 3 Independiente Sante Fe and Bucaramanga 7; 5 Tolima 5.

Group 2: Pereira and America 10; 3 Dep Cali 8; 4 Quindio 7; 5 Caldas 5.

Group 3: Nacional 14; 2 Sporting Barranquilla 9; 3 Union Magdalena and Atletico Junior (Barranquilla) 6; 5 Independiente Medellin 5.

Overall standings after frist round of second stage: 1 Nacional Medellin 16 points; 2 America 12; 3 Millionarios 11; 4 Pereira and Cucuta 10; 6 Bucamaranga, Sporting Barranquilla, Dep. Cali 9; 9 Independiente Santa Fe 8; 1£0 Tolima, Quidion 7; 12 Magdalena, Junior Barranquilla 6;
14 Caldas, Medellin 5.

SPAIN

Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	38	28	6	4	95	26	62
Real Sociedad	38	22	7	9	61	33	51
Atletico Madrid	38	19	10	9	60	38	48
Athletic Bilbao	38	17	12	9	50	43	46
Osasuna	38	15	10	13	40	34	40
Barcelona	38	15	9	14	49	44	39
Celta	38	14	11	13	43	40	39
Valladolid	38	13	12	13	31	34	38
Gijon	38	14	10	14	44	49	38
Sevilla	38	13	11	14	41	46	37
Zaragoza	38	11	14	13	54	56	36
Cadiz	38	11	13	14	47	54	35
Logrones	38	12	9	17	28	45	33
Valencia	38	10	13	15	44	53	33
Español	38	11	11	16	44	55	33
Betis	38	14	5	19	42	54	33
Murcia	38	9	13	16	31	42	31
Mallorca	38	9	12	17	35	50	30
Sabadell	38	9	11	18	27	48	29
Las Palmas	38	12	5	21	43	65	29

BELGIUM

Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	34	23	5	6	74	34	51
Mechelen	34	21	7	6	50	24	49
Antwerp	34	20	9	5	75	40	49
Anderlecht	34	18	9	7	64	27	45
Liège	34	14	16	4	52	28	44
Waregem	34	16	7	11	50	43	39
Cercle	34	12	9	13	48	45	33
Charleroi	34	11	10	13	39	48	32
FC Kortrijk	34	11	9	14	40	54	31
Standard Liege	34	11	8	15	46	51	30
St Truiden	34	10	9	15	30	39	29
RWDM	34	8	12	14	33	48	28
Beerschot	34	10	7	17	39	49	27
Beveren	34	8	11	15	36	38	27
Winterslag	34	10	6	18	32	74	26
Lokeren	34	9	8	17	42	47	26
AA Ghent	34	8	9	17	34	60	25
Racing Jet	34	7	7	20	21	56	21

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaco	36	19	12	5	50	25	50
Bordeaux	36	17	10	9	42	26	44
Montpellier	36	16	9	11	60	36	41
Saint-Etienne	36	17	6	13	52	54	40
Matra Racing	36	12	16	8	34	36	40
Marseille	36	17	5	14	47	39	39
Nantes	36	13	12	11	43	35	38
Toulon	36	12	13	11	34	24	37
Auxerre	36	11	15	10	34	26	37
Metz	36	15	7	14	41	37	37
Cannes	36	13	10	13	39	48	36
Lille	36	13	8	15	39	38	34
Laval	36	12	9	15	37	36	33
Nice	36	15	3	18	40	41	33
Toulouse	36	13	7	16	31	42	33
Niort	36	11	9	16	33	39	31
Lens	36	12	7	17	36	57	31
Paris SG	36	10	10	16	31	44	30
Brest	36	10	9	17	30	51	29
Le Havre	36	8	11	17	34	53	27

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	35	26	8	1	80	15	60
Benfica	35	19	11	5	56	19	49
Boavista	35	15	13	7	38	22	43
Belenenses	35	16	11	8	48	37	43
Sporting	35	15	12	8	51	39	42
Chaves	35	13	13	9	51	29	39
Setubal	35	14	9	12	52	39	37
Penafiel	35	10	17	8	35	36	37
Espinho	35	12	12	11	36	35	36
Maritimo	35	9	16	10	31	36	34
Guimaraes	35	11	10	14	47	45	32
Farense	35	11	9	15	29	46	31
Braga	35	7	16	12	30	41	30
Academica	35	8	14	13	31	41	30
Portimonense	35	11	8	16	33	49	30
Elvas	35	6	16	13	31	40	28
Varzim	35	7	13	15	28	49	27
Rio Ave	35	7	13	15	29	63	27
Salgueiros	35	6	13	16	29	42	25
Covilha	35	5	10	20	29	61	20

MEXICO

First Division

Group 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guadalajara	30	13	11	6	41	25	37
Univ Aut Mexico	30	11	12	7	61	41	34
Atlante	30	11	9	9	52	46	33
Tampico Madero	30	4	15	11	36	52	23
Angeles	30	5	10	15	37	63	20
Group 2							
Univ Guadalajara	30	17	8	5	64	36	42
Univ A Guadalajara	30	14	9	7	45	31	37
Cruz Azul	30	9	11	10	44	46	29
Atlas	30	7	11	12	44	58	25
Potisino	30	4	13	13	28	44	21
Group 3							
America	30	17	7	6	63	31	41
Puebla	30	12	8	10	45	39	32
Necaxa	30	9	13	8	31	36	31
Neza	30	9	10	11	36	46	28
Irapuato	30	10	6	14	33	40	26
Group 4							
Morelia	30	11	11	8	46	32	23
Toluca	30	14	5	11	41	39	33
Univ Nuevo Leon	30	10	6	14	37	48	26
Monterrey	30	7	11	12	46	52	25
Univ. Tamaulipas	30	8	8	14	33	50	24

GUATEMALA

First Division

1 Aurora, Bandegua, Suchitepequez 10; 4 Municipal 9; 5 Juventud Retalteca, Galcasa 8; 7 Izabel 7; 8 Comunicaciones, Jalapa 6; 10 Xelaju 5; 11 Chiquimulilla 3; 12 Coban Imperial 2.

SWITZERLAND

Title section

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Neuchatel X.	12	5	4	3	27	18	30
Aarau	12	6	4	2	21	13	29
Servette	12	6	3	3	32	21	27
Grasshoppers	12	4	3	5	19	19	26
Lucerna	12	4	5	3	14	15	25
Losanna	12	3	5	4	17	24	23
San Gallo	12	3	3	6	12	21	21
Young Boys	12	3	1	8	17	28	20

● Includes half first-round points.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	37	26	9	2	85	35	87
Besiktas	37	22	12	3	65	24	78
Malatyaspor	37	16	11	10	59	58	59
Bursaspor	37	17	6	14	63	54	57
Samsunspor	37	16	9	12	37	38	57
Trabzonspor	37	16	8	13	56	50	56
Karsiyaka	37	13	16	8	42	33	55
Fenerbahce	37	15	10	12	43	40	55
Sakaryaspor	37	14	8	15	53	66	50
Sariyer	37	11	16	10	55	51	49
Adana D'spor	37	15	4	18	57	63	49
Ankaragucu	37	11	13	13	45	45	46
Eskisehirspor	37	11	13	13	45	48	46
Boluspor	37	13	7	17	45	51	46
Altay	37	12	9	16	57	55	45
Rizespor	37	12	7	18	35	56	43
Denizlispor	37	11	9	17	32	46	42
Kocaelispor	37	6	16	15	42	58	34
Genclerbirligi	37	7	9	21	38	59	30
Zonguldakspor	37	6	8	23	36	80	26

WEST GERMANY

Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Werder Bremen	34	22	8	4	61	22	52
Bayern Munich	34	22	4	8	83	45	48
Koln	34	18	12	4	57	28	48
Stuttgart	34	16	8	10	69	49	40
Nurnberg	34	13	11	10	47	40	37
Hamburg	34	13	11	10	63	68	37
Borussia Mg	34	14	5	15	55	53	33
Bayer Leverkusen	34	10	12	12	53	60	32
Eintracht Frankfurt	34	10	11	13	51	50	31
Hannover	34	12	7	15	59	60	31
Bayer Uerdingen	34	11	9	14	59	61	31
Bochum	34	10	10	14	47	51	30
Borussia Dortmund	34	9	11	14	51	54	29
Kaiserslautern	34	1	7	16	53	62	29
Karlsruhe	34	9	11	14	37	55	29
Waldhof-Mannheim	34	7	14	13	35	50	28
FC Homburg	34	7	10	17	37	70	24
Schalke	34	8	7	19	48	84	23

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Red Star	31	15	10	6	56	34	40
Velez	31	14	11	6	52	29	39
Partizan	31	15	9	7	53	33	39
Dinamo	31	14	9	8	43	32	37
Sloboda	31	13	9	9	46	33	35
Vardar	31	14	6	11	32	35	34
Buducnost	31	10	11	10	36	40	31
Rijeka	31	8	14	9	31	33	30
Vojvodina	31	10	10	11	38	43	30
Saralevo	31	11	7	13	33	39	29
Radnicki	31	12	4	15	41	41	28
Hadjuk	31	8	12	11	38	45	28
Rad	31	10	8	13	40	50	28
Zeljeznicar	31	7	13	11	31	39	27
Osijek	31	8	11	12	35	50	27
Sutjesta	31	9	8	14	38	44	26
Celik	31	10	5	16	32	41	25
Pristina	31	9	7	15	39	51	25

EAST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BFC Dynamo	24	14	6	4	57	29	34
Lok. Leipzig	24	12	9	3	37	20	33
Dresden	24	11	9	4	43	19	31
Stahl B.	24	11	5	8	39	34	27
Carl Zeiss	24	8	10	6	27	25	26
Magdeburg	24	9	7	8	33	29	25
K. M. Stadt	24	8	9	7	38	37	25
Chemie Halle	24	6	12	6	29	29	24
Hansa Rostock	24	6	8	10	39	47	20
Wismut Aué	24	7	6	11	22	33	20
Rot Weiss	24	7	5	12	36	45	19
Vorwärts	24	5	9	10	28	42	19
Union Berlin	24	5	8	11	29	50	18
Stahl Riesa	24	3	9	12	21	39	15

CHILE

"DIGEDER" CUP
PRE-SEASON TOURNAMENT

Group leaders — Group A: Wanderers 15 points; Group B: Arica 13, Group C: Union Española 15; Group D: Huachipato and Iberia 12.

GREECE

Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Larissa	30	18	7	5	50	22	43
AEK	30	15	10	5	50	31	40
PAOK	30	17	5	8	62	27	39
OFI Crete	30	17	3	10	50	40	37
Panathinaikos	30	15	6	9	47	34	36
Iraklis	30	13	8	9	41	32	34
Ethnikos	30	12	8	10	30	25	32
Olympiakos	30	9	13	8	39	40	31
Aris	30	11	5	14	36	39	27
Panionios	30	8	10	12	33	35	26
Kalamaria	30	7	10	13	23	39	24
Diagoras	30	7	9	14	36	38	23
Levadiakos	30	7	9	14	33	44	23
Verria	30	7	9	14	24	53	23
Panserraikos	30	7	5	18	24	46	23
Panachaiki	30	9	5	16	35	50	20

HOLLAND

Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	34	27	5	2	177	28	59
Ajax	34	23	4	7	78	40	50
FC Twente	34	16	9	9	63	40	41
Willem II	34	14	10	10	60	46	38
VVV	34	13	12	9	43	35	38
Feyenoord	34	14	8	12	63	57	36
FC Den Bosch	34	15	6	13	46	46	36
Fortuna S.	34	11	13	10	51	48	35
Haarlem	34	14	6	14	42	46	34
Utrecht	34	11	11	12	41	55	33
Groningen	34	13	6	15	54	52	32
Sparta	34	12	8	14	44	50	32
PEC Zwolle	34	10	9	15	40	64	29
Volendam	34	10	9	15	40	66	29
Roda JC	34	10	8	16	46	54	28
AZ	34	9	10	15	44	64	28
Den Haag	34	7	8	19	50	72	22
DS '79	34	2	8	24	41	100	12

ENGLAND

Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	40	26	12	2	87	24	90
Man Utd	40	23	12	5	71	38	81
Nottm Forest	40	20	13	7	67	39	73
Everton	40	19	13	8	53	27	70
QPR	40	19	10	11	48	38	67
Arsenal	40	18	12	10	58	39	66
Wimbledon	40	14	15	11	58	47	57
Newcastle Utd	40	14	14	12	55	53	56
Luton Town	40	14	11	15	57	58	53
Coventry City	40	13	14	13	46	53	53
Sheffield Wed	40	15	8	17	52	66	53
Southampton	40	12	14	14	49	53	50
Tottenham	40	12	11	17	38	48	47
Norwich City	40	12	9	19	40	52	45
Derby County	40	10	13	17	35	45	43
West Ham Utd	40	9	15	16	40	52	42
Charlton Ath	40	9	15	16	38	52	42
Chelsea	40	9	15	16	50	68	42
Portsmouth	40	7	14	19	36	66	35
Watford	40	7	11	22	27	51	32
Oxford Utd	40	6	13	21	44	80	31

ITALY

Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	30	17	11	2	43	14	45
Napoli	30	18	6	6	55	27	42
Roma	30	15	8	7	39	26	38
Sampdoria	30	13	11	6	41	30	37
Inter	30	11	10	9	42	35	32
Juventus	30	11	9	10	35	30	31
Torino	30	8	15	7	33	30	31
Fiorentina	30	9	10	11	29	33	28
Cesena	30	7	12	11	23	32	26
Verona	30	7	11	12	23	30	25
Como	30	6	13	11	22	37	25
Ascoli	30	6	12	12	30	37	24
Pisa	30	6	12	12	23	30	24
Pescara	30	8	8	14	27	44	24
Avellino	30	5	13	12	19	39	23
Empoli	30	6	13	11	20	30	20

● Juventus beat Torino on penalties after 0-0 draw in UEFA Cup place play-offs. Empoli minus 5 points.

SCOTLAND

Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	44	31	10	3	79	23	72
Hearts	44	23	16	5	74	32	62
Rangers	44	26	8	10	85	34	60
Aberdeen	44	21	17	6	56	25	59
Dundee Utd	44	16	15	13	54	47	47
Hibernian	44	12	19	13	41	42	43
Dundee	44	17	7	20	70	64	41
Motherwell	44	13	10	21	37	56	36
St Mirren	44	10	15	19	41	64	35
Falkirk	44	10	11	23	41	75	31
Dunfermline	44	8	10	26	41	84	26
Morton	44	3	10	31	27	100	16

LEAGUE TABLES . . . LEAGUE TABLES . . .

● Continued from previous page

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IFK	6	5	1	0	11	2	11
Orgryte	5	4	0	1	9	4	8
Djurgaarden	6	3	2	1	14	6	8
Malmö	6	3	1	2	11	10	7
Brage	5	2	2	1	5	6	6
Oster	6	2	2	2	3	3	6
Sundsvall	5	2	1	2	4	6	5
Norrköping	5	2	0	3	7	8	4
Västra F.	6	1	2	3	6	9	4
AIK	5	1	1	3	4	7	3
GAIS	6	1	0	5	6	14	2
Hammarby	5	1	0	4	3	8	2

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lyngby	7	6	1	0	9	2	13
Silkeborg	7	4	2	1	11	7	10
Bröndby	7	4	2	1	11	3	10
Herfölge	7	4	1	2	9	7	9
OB	7	3	2	2	10	10	8
B 1903	7	3	2	2	9	6	8
Naestved	7	2	3	2	10	8	7
Vejle	7	3	1	3	14	7	7
Ikast	7	2	2	3	5	6	6
Brönshöj	7	3	0	4	9	14	6
AGF	7	2	1	4	6	8	5
Randers	7	2	1	4	8	16	5
AaB	7	1	2	4	5	10	4
KB	7	0	0	7	5	17	0

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gornik Z.	25	14	7	4	51	27	39
Legia	25	14	7	4	36	20	36
GKS Katowice	25	12	6	7	34	19	33
LKS Lodz	25	14	4	7	32	23	33
Slask W.	25	9	10	6	30	23	29
Widzew Lodz	25	7	12	6	26	20	27
Pogon S.	25	11	4	10	31	29	26
Jagiellonia	25	8	7	10	18	21	23
Szombierki	25	8	7	10	23	27	22
Lech Poznan	25	8	8	9	21	26	22
Lechia D.	25	4	13	8	12	20	21
Zaglebie	25	5	11	9	17	22	20
Olimpia	25	6	9	10	27	36	20
Gornik W.	25	4	10	11	16	27	19
Baltyk Gdynia	25	8	5	12	20	31	18
Stal S.W.	25	4	8	13	22	45	12

MALTA

Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hamrun S.	14	9	4	1	21	5	22
Sliema	14	8	3	3	19	7	19
Zurrieq	14	6	6	2	17	10	18
Valietta	14	4	5	5	9	16	13
Hibernians	14	4	3	7	11	15	11
Floriana	14	2	6	6	8	13	10
Birkirkara	14	2	6	6	8	17	10
Mosta	14	4	1	9	13	13	9

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rapid	32	19	10	3	67	32	48
Austria V.	32	17	7	8	76	42	41
Sturm Graz	32	15	9	8	53	44	39
Admira Wac	32	14	6	12	65	46	34
First Vienna	32	16	2	14	62	57	34
Tirol	32	10	13	9	42	44	33
Grazer AK	32	11	11	10	46	55	33
Wiener	32	8	12	12	56	70	28

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta	24	18	4	2	60	16	40
Ostrava	24	11	7	6	39	29	29
D. Streda	24	11	7	6	31	25	29
Dukla Praga	24	10	8	6	35	26	28
Olomouc	24	10	7	7	41	32	27
Cheb	24	8	9	7	25	27	25
Bohemians	24	11	2	11	33	39	24
Nitra	24	10	3	11	35	33	23
Dukla B.B.	24	10	3	11	34	36	23
Slavia	24	8	7	9	31	37	23
Hradec K.	24	7	9	8	24	42	23
Inter B.	24	9	4	11	42	42	22
Trnava	24	8	5	11	28	36	21
Vitkovice	24	7	6	11	38	39	20
Zilina	24	6	6	12	26	38	18
Presov	24	3	3	18	22	47	9

ECUADOR

First Division

1 Aucas 13 points; 2 Tecnico Universitario 12; 3 Liga Universitaria Quito 11; 4 Filanbanco, Emelec 10; 6 nacional, Deportivo Cuenca, Audaz Octubrino 9; 9 Universidad Catoloca 8; 10 Deportivo Quito, Barcelona, America 7; 13 Esmeraldas Petrolero, Juventus, Liga Universitaria Portoviejo 6; 16 Deportivo Quevedo, Macara 5; 18 River Plate 4.

MOROCCO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
WAC	19	9	5	5	23	15	42
Sidi Kacem	19	9	4	6	24	24	41
Hilal	19	8	6	5	13	14	41
Ittihad	19	8	6	5	19	23	41
KACM	18	7	8	3	21	21	40
Benslimane	18	7	9	2	21	16	40
Raja	18	9	3	6	22	9	39
MAS	19	6	8	5	13	12	39
OC Kourigbha	19	7	5	7	20	17	38
KAC Kenitra	19	7	5	7	15	12	38
Massania	18	6	7	5	19	12	37
FUS	19	7	5	7	15	13	37
CLAS	19	5	6	8	20	19	35
FAR	16	5	8	3	16	11	34
RSS Settat	18	5	4	9	14	22	32
SCCM	19	2	9	8	6	20	31
Mc Oudja	19	3	4	12	12	25	29
Mohammedia	18	4	3	11	15	23	29

● 3 pts for win; 2 pts for a draw; 1 pt for 90-minute defeat.

URUGUAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Peñarol	5	5	0	0	12	4	10
Danubio	6	4	1	1	8	4	9
Miramar Misiones	5	4	0	1	8	4	8
Liverpool	5	3	1	1	5	3	7
River Plate	6	2	3	1	7	6	7
Defensor	5	2	2	1	3	2	6
Cerro	6	1	3	2	3	3	5
Bella Vista	6	2	1	3	7	8	5
Nacional	4	1	1	2	4	5	3
Wanderers	4	1	1	2	1	2	3
Progreso	6	1	1	4	4	8	3
Huracán Buceo	6	0	3	3	6	11	3
Central Español	6	0	1	5	0	11	1

FINLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HJK	6	5	0	1	13	6	10
Kuusysi	6	3	2	1	14	7	8
Ilves	6	3	2	1	11	4	8
Reipas	6	3	2	1	8	7	8
TPS	6	2	3	1	6	4	7
MP	6	3	1	2	6	8	7
KePS	6	2	2	2	6	10	6
RoPS	6	1	2	3	7	8	4
Haka	6	1	2	3	6	8	4
KuPS	6	1	2	3	4	7	4
OTP	6	1	2	3	5	9	4
PPT	6	0	2	4	9	17	2

ALGERIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mouloudia	27	14	7	6	36	19	35
Bordj Ménaiel	27	10	10	7	20	22	30
JET	27	8	14	5	28	19	30
Annaba	26	11	7	8	28	24	29
Un. Algeri	27	9	11	7	23	18	29
Tiaret	27	12	5	10	29	25	29
Ain M'Lila	27	10	8	9	20	21	28
Relizane	27	11	5	11	25	28	26
Ain Beida	27	10	6	11	23	32	26
Collo	27	10	6	11	22	22	26
Mouloudja A.	27	8	10	9	23	23	26
AS Orano	27	7	12	8	18	16	26
El Harrach	26	6	14	6	20	17	26
Tiemcen	27	7	9	11	17	29	23
Chief	27	6	11	10	16	23	23
Setif 25	6	11	8	21	18	23	
Skikda 27	6	10	11	16	19	22	

● Mouloudia minus 1 pt.

BOLIVIA

Professional League
final round quarter finals

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
The Strongest	6	2	4	0	7	5	8
Litoral	6	2	3	1	6	4	7
Bolivar	6	2	3	1	6	5	7
Always Ready	6	0	2	4	1	6	2
Group B							
Destoyer	6	4	1	1	11	7	9
Oriente	6	2	2	2	15	14	6
Bloming	6	2	1	3	11	13	5
Petrolero	6	1	2	3	7	9	4

*Top two of each group qualify for semi-finals.

SOVIET UNION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zhalgiris	10	6	2	2	14	9	14
Zenit	10	6	1	3	20	16	13
Dinamo Kiev	9	5	3	1	12	3	13
Spartak	9	5	3	1	12	6	13
Dnepr	10	4	5	1	10	5	13
Lokomotiv	10	4	3	3	12	10	11
Torpedo	10	4	3	3	9	9	11
Chernomorets	10	5	0	5	9	11	10
Dynamo Moscow	9	4	2	3	11	11	10
Dinamo Tbilisi	10	4	0	6	15	17	8
Ararat	9	3	2	4	6	7	8
Shakhtor	10	2	4	4	8	10	8
Metallist	10	2	4	4	8	13	8
Minsk	8	1	4	3	6	7	6
Neftchi	10	2	1	7	7	14	5
Kairat	10	1	1	8	5	16	3

● Continued from page 37

his career was finished when he and another under-21 team-mate were suspended for life for persistent drunkenness. This explains why Zavarov has appeared to emerge out of nowhere in the past 18 months. He was ultimately amnestied and this time was grateful to accept his new chance when Kiev came back for him. Zavarov was one of the revelations of Kiev's victory over Atletico Madrid in the 1986 Cup-winners' Cup final. Playing an attacking game out of the centre of midfield, he not only 'conducted' one of the finest team displays in a European final for years, he also headed Kiev into the lead after only four minutes. Married with one son, also Alexander, Zavarov is the smallest player in the squad. Appeared for the last few minutes of the Football League centenary match at Wembley last summer — though with his thigh so heavily strapped because of injury it was as much as he could do to limp, let alone walk or run.

VASILY RATS. Midfield. Aged 27 (born Apr 25, 1961) with 22 caps. Kiev. Another Kiev star called up at the last minute by Lobanovsky on his World Cup appointed in 1986 — and virtually ever-present ever since. Made his international debut in the 2-1 defeat by Rumania in the spring of 1986. Struck a brilliant 30-yard shot past French keeper Joel Bats in the World Cup first round match in Leon . . . then repeated the track in the 2-0 Soviet win in the European championship tie against France (and Bats) in Paris in the autumn.

SERGEI RODIONOV. Forward/midfield. Aged 25 (born September 3, 1962) with 31 caps. Spartak. His importance to Spartak, current Soviet champions, was originally seen in the way he took the weight off schemer Fyodor Cherenkov in midfield. In the last two years, however, Rodionov has emerged as the more complete player and has been a national team regular since before the World Cup. Made his international debut as a substitute in the Soviets' 4-1 win over Hungary in August, 1980. A member of the third-place 1980 Olympic squad and of the 1982 World Cup squad.

PAVEL YAKOVENKO. Midfield/attack. Aged 23 (born December 19, 1964) with 18 caps. Kiev. Made his international debut in the awful goalless draw with Finland in Moscow in May 1986 which turned out to be Eduard Malofeyev's last game as manager. Lobanovsky not only kept him in the squad but in the team and was rewarded when Yakovenko opened the scoring within two minutes of the start of the Soviets' opening World Cup-tie against Hungary.

SERGEI DIMITRIEV. Forward. Aged 24 (born 1964) with six caps. Zenit Leningrad. The only Zenit player likely to make the European finals squad — hardly surprising, since they were almost relegated last season.

VIKTOR PASULKO. Forward/midfield. Aged 27 (born 1961) with five caps. Spartak. Made his debut in the 4-1 defeat by Italy in Bari early this year.

IGOR BELANOV. Forward. Aged 27 (born November 25, 1960) with 21 caps. Kiev. The 1986 European Footballer of the Year, the third Soviet to achieve this honour after Lev Yashin and Blokhin. Belanov was another last choice for the World Cup finals in Mexico. Called up by Malofeyev originally, he played badly in the draw with Finland which was the Soviets' last pre-Mexico work-out and probably owed his place in the squad to Lobanovsky's arrival. Yet he turned out to be the outstanding Soviet player in the finals, scoring that superb, but luckless, second round hat-track in the thrilling extra-time defeat by Belgium. Belanov was then selected for the World All-Star match played in Pasadena, California, as a fund-raiser for UNICEF, and for the Football League centenary match at Wembley last August. Joined Kiev four years ago on Lobanovsky's personal insistence after a brilliant first division debut season with Chernomoretz Odessa. Has suffered with a string of injuries and is thought to want a transfer 'back home' to Odessa.

OLEG PROTASOV. Winger/striker. Aged 24 (born February 14, 1964) with 34 caps. Kiev. Prolific scorer who, in the 1985 season with Dnepr, set an all-time record with 35 goals in 34 league games — thus breaking the old mark of 34 goals in a season set by former national team star Nikita Simonyan. Protasov's 35 goals included four hat-tricks and underlined the potential first evident at international level when he scored the Soviets' second — and decisive — goal in the last minute to complete the 2-0 win over England at Wembley in 1984. Yet Protasov had only entered the game four minutes earlier as a substitute. Protasov had made his international debut earlier in the year, also as a substitute, in a 2-1 defeat by West Germany in a friendly in Hanover. In 1985, in addition to his league scoring feats, Protasov hit eight goals in internationals, no fewer than five of them in World Cup-ties. However he was then injured, was not fully fit to reclaim his place in the national team by the time the World Cup came around and played only once in Mexico — in the 2-0 win over Canada which the Soviets used to rest several key players. Now a regular in the national team attack, Protasov's international chances were only enhanced by his winter transfer from Dnepr to Kiev — where he is seen as the replacement for Oleg Blokhin.

OLYMPIC GAMES . . . . . OLYMPIC GAMES

EUROPE

Preliminary round

Group 1

10. 9.86	Liechtenstein — Switzerland	0-10
23. 9.86	Switzerland — Liechtenstein	9-0

Switzerland 19-0 on agg.

Group 2

12.11.86	Cyprus — Greece	1-2
10.12.86	Greece — Cyprus	2-0

Greece 4-1 on agg.

Final round

Group A

18. 4.87	Rumania v W. Germany	1-0
20. 5.87	Greece v Denmark	0-5
20. 5.87	Rumania v Poland	0-0
10. 6.87	Denmark v Rumania	8-0
3. 9.87	Rumania v Denmark	1-2
22. 9.87	W. Germany v Greece	3-0
13.10.87	W. Germany v Poland	5-1
28.10.87	Poland v Denmark	2-0*
18.11.87	Denmark v W Germany	0-1
16. 3.88	Poland v Greece	5-1
22. 3.88	W Germany v Denmark	1-1
30. 3.88	Poland v Rumania	1-0
20. 4.88	Denmark v Greece	4-0
27. 4.88	Poland v W Germany	
18. 5.88	Denmark v Poland	
31. 5.88	Germany v Rumania	

*Denmark won 2-0 but the result was reversed by FIFA because Denmark fielded Per Frimann, who was ineligible having played in the last World Cup qualifiers.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	7	4	1	2	20	5	9
West Germany	6	4	1	1	12	3	9
Poland	6	3	1	2	8	7	7
Greece	7	2	0	5	3	19	4
Rumania	6	1	1	4	2	12	3

Group B

3.12.86	Holland v E Germany	0-1
18. 2.87	Italy v Portugal	1-0
25. 2.87	Portugal v Holland	1-1
25. 3.87	E Germany v Italy	0-0
15. 4.87	Italy v Iceland	2-0
28. 4.87	Portugal v E. Germany	0-0
26. 5.87	Iceland v Holland	2-2
2. 9.87	Iceland v E Germany	2-0
22. 9.87	E Germany v Holland	4-2
7.10.87	Portugal v Iceland	2-1
18.11.87	Italy v E Germany	1-1
24. 2.88	Portugal v Italy	0-0
9. 3.88	Holland v Italy	0-1
30. 3.88	Holland v Portugal	0-0
13. 4.88	E Germany v Portugal	3-0
13. 4.88	Italy v Holland	3-0
27. 4.88	Holland v Iceland	
30. 4.88	E Germany v Iceland	
24. 5.88	Iceland v Portugal	
29. 5.88	Iceland v Italy	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	7	4	3	0	8	1	11
East Germany	7	3	3	1	9	5	9
Portugal	7	1	4	2	3	6	6
Iceland	4	1	1	2	5	6	3
Holland	7	0	3	4	5	12	3

Group C

19.11.86	Spain v Sweden	1-1
19.11.86	Ireland Rep v Hungary	1-2
4. 2.87	Ireland Rep v Spain	2-2
28. 4.87	France v Hungary	0-2
5. 5.87	Sweden v Ireland Rep	1-0
13. 5.87	Hungary v Spain	2-1
3. 6.87	Hungary v Sweden	2-1
16. 6.87	Sweden v France	4-2
12. 8.87	France v Ireland Rep	1-0
25. 8.87	Ireland Rep v Sweden	0-1
9. 9.87	Sweden v Hungary	1-0
23. 9.87	Sweden v Spain	2-0
14.10.87	Spain v France	1-2
18.11.87	Ireland Rep v France	3-0
18.11.87	Spain v Hungary	1-0
23. 3.88	France v Spain	1-1
23. 4.88	Hungary v France	
4. 5.88	Hungary v Ireland Rep	
18. 5.88	Spain v Ireland Rep	
26. 5.88	France v Sweden	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	5	5	1	1	11	5	11
Hungary	6	4	0	2	8	5	8
Spain	7	1	3	3	7	10	5
Ireland	6	1	2	3	7	7	4
France	6	1	2	3	5	11	4

Group D

14.10.86	Norway v Sov Union	0-0
8.11.86	Switzerland v Norway	1-0
3.12.86	Turkey v Switzerland	3-2
15. 4.87	Turkey v Sov Union	0-2
16. 4.87	Switzerlandv Bulgaria	1-1
6. 5.87	Norway v Turkey	1-1
7. 5.87	Bulgaria v Sov Union	0-1
26. 5.87	Norway v Bulgaria	0-0
12. 8.87	Sov Union v Norway	1-0
26. 8.87	Norway v Switzerland	0-0
7.10.87	Switzerland v Turkey	2-0
28.10.87	Switzerland v Sov Union	2-4
14.11.87	Bulgaria v Norway	4-0
18.11.87	Turkey v Norway	0-0
9.12.87	Turkey v Bulgaria	0-3
6. 4.88	Sov Union v Turkey	2-0
16. 4.88	Bulgaria v Switzerland	2-0
27. 4.88	Sov Union v Bulgaria	
10. 5.88	Sov Union v Switzerland	
25. 5.88	Bulgaria v Turkey	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Soviet Union	6	5	1	0	10	2	11
Bulgaria	6	3	2	1	10	2	8
Switzerland	7	2	2	3	8	10	6
Norway	8	0	5	3	1	7	5
Turkey	7	1	2	4	4	12	4

Group E

14.10.86	Finland v Belgium	0-2
29.10.86	Czechoslovakia v Belgium	2-0
18.11.86	Belgium v Austria	2-3
14. 4.87	Austria v Czechoslovakia	2-0
12. 5.87	Finland v Austria	2-1
3. 6.87	Austria v Yugoslavia	0-1
10. 6.87	Finland v Czechoslovakia	0-2
26. 8.87	Yugoslavia v Austria	2-1
2. 9.87	Yugoslavia v Finland	5-0
23. 9.87	Czechoslovakia v Finland	2-0
24. 9.87	Belgium v Yugoslavia	2-2
7.10.87	Belgium v Czechoslovakia	0-2
28.10.87	Belgium v Finland	1-0
28.10.87	Czechoslovakia v Yugoslavia	1-0
11.11.87	Austria v Belgium	0-1
2.12.87	Yugoslavia v Belgium	4-0
12. 4.88	Czechoslovakia v Austria	1-0
27. 4.88	Yugoslavia v Czechoslovakia	
18. 5.88	Finland v Yugoslavia	
31. 5.88	Austria v Finland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Czechoslovakia	7	6	0	1	10	2	12
Yugolavia	6	4	1	1	10	4	9
Belgium	8	3	1	4	8	13	7
Austria	7	2	0	5	7	9	4
Finland	6	1	0	5	2	13	2

ASIA

West Asia — 1st round results in October edition.

Final round

4.12.87	Saudi Arabia v Iraq	0-0
4.12.87	Qatar v Kuwait	0-0
11.12.87	Qatar v Iraq	1-3
11.12.87	Kuwait v Saudi Arabia	1-0
18.12.87	Kuwait v Iraq	2-1
18.12.87	Saudi Arabia v Qatar	1-1
1. 1.88*	Iraq v Saudi Arabia	1-1
1. 1.88	Kuwait v Qatar	0-0
8. 1.88*	Iraq v Qatar	4-1
8. 1.88	Saudi Arabia v Kuwait	0-0
15. 1.88*	Iraq v Kuwait	1-0
15. 1.88	Qatar v Saudi Arabia	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iraq	6	3	2	1	10	5	8
Kuwait	6	2	3	1	3	2	7
Qatar	6	1	3	2	4	8	5
Saudie Arabia	6	0	4	2	2	4	4

IRAQ QUALIFY

East Asia — 1st round results in October edition.

Final Round

2. 9.87	Thailand v Japan	0-0
15. 9.87	Japan v nepal	5-0
18. 9.87	Nepal v Japan*	0-9
23. 9.87	China v Nepal	8-0
26. 9.87	Japan v Thailand	1-0
26. 9.87	Nepal v China**	0-12
1.10.87	Thailand v Nepal	3-0
4.10.87	Nepal v Thailand***	1-2
4.10.87	China v Japan	0-1
11.10.87	Thailand v China	0-1
18.10.87	China v Thailand	2-0
26.10.87	Japan v China	0-2

*Match played in Tokyo
**Match played in Shenyan (China)
***Match played in Bangkok

CHINA QUALIFY

OCEANIA

Group 1

Papua New Guinea — withdrawal

15.11.87	Taiwan v Australia	0-3
26. 2.88	Australia v Taiwan	3-0

Group 2

Fiji — withdrawal

7.11.87	W Samoa v New Zealand	0-7
14.11.87	New Zealand v W. Samoa	12-0

Final tournament

(In Australia and New Zealand)

AUSTRALIA QUALIFY

AFRICA

Preliminary and 1st round results in October edition.

Second round

4.10.87	Tunisia v Egypt	0-0
13.11.87	Egypt v Tunisia	0-1
4.10.87	Ghana v Cameroon	0-0
15.11.87	Cameroon v Ghana	2-2
1.11.87	Ivory Coast v Morocco	0-0
15.11.87	Morocco v Ivory Coast	2-1
3.10.87	Uganda v Zambia	2-1
14.11.87	Zambia v Uganda	5-0
4.10.87	Zimbabwe v Nigeria	0-0
17.10.87	Nigeria v Zimbabwe	2-0

Algeria w/o v Libya

Third Round

15. 1.88	Algeria v Nigeria	1-0
30. 1.88	Nigeria v Algeria	2-0

Nigeria 2-1 on aggregate

17. 1.88	Tunisia v Morocco	1-0
30. 1.88	Morocco v Tunisia	2-2

Tunisia 3-2 on aggregate

17. 1.88	Zambia v Ghana	2-0
31. 1.88	Ghana v Zambia	1-0

Zambia 2-1 on aggregate

TUNISIA, ZAMBIA, NIGERIA QUALIFY

SOUTH AMERICA

Tournament in Bolivia

Groups A and B — results in June edition

Final round

29. 4.87	Bolivia v Colombia	2-1
	Argentina v Brazil	2-0
1. 5.87	Brazil v Colombia	2-1
	Bolivia v Argentina	0-0
3. 5.87	Colombia v Argentina	1-0
	Brazil v Bolivia	2-1

Brazil	3	2	0	1	4	4	4
Argentina	3	1	1	1	2	1	3
Bolivia	3	1	1	1	3	3	3
Colombia	3	1	0	2	3	4	2

BRAZIL, ARGENTINA QUALIFY

NORTH/CENTRAL AMERICA

Group A

25. 1.87	Bahamas v Guyana	1-3
22. 2.87	Guyana v Bahamas	3-0
26. 4.87	Antigua v Dom. Republic	1-1
3. 5.87	Dom. Republic v Antigua	0-0
	Trinidad/Tobago W/O v Surinam*	
22. 3.87	Barbados v Jamaica	0-0
5. 4.87	Jamaica v Barbados	0-1

Second round

31. 5.87	Guyana v. Dom. Republic	4-0
7. 6.87	Dom. Republic v. Guyana	1-2
10. 5.87	T/Tobago v. Barbados	2-0
24. 5.87	Barbados v. T/Tobago	1-1

Group B

23. 5.87	Canada v USA	2-0
30. 5.87	USA v Canada	3-0
1. 4.87	Bermuda v Mexico	2-1
13. 5.87	Mexico v Bermuda	6-0

Group C

19. 4.87	Panama v El Salvador	1-1
17. 5.87	El Salvador v Panama	3-2
17. 5.87	Honduras v Guatemala	1-2
31. 5.87	Guatemala v Honduras	2-2

Final round

Group A

6. 9.87	USA v Trin/Tob	4-1
20. 9.87	Trin/Tob v USA	0-1
18.10.87	El Salvador v USA	2 4
22 or		
25. 5.88	USA v El Salvador	
15. 5.88	El Salvador v Trin/Tob	
29. 5.88	Trin/Tob v El Salvador	

Group B

18.10.87	Guatemala v Guyana	6-0
25.10.87	Guyana v Guatemala	0-3
2.12.87	Guyana v Mexico	0-9
9.12.87	Mexico w/o v Guyana	—
3. 2.88	Mexico v Guatemala	2-1
14. 2.88	Guatemala v Mexico	0-3

MEXICO QUALIFY

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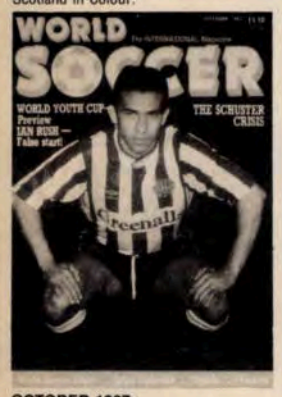

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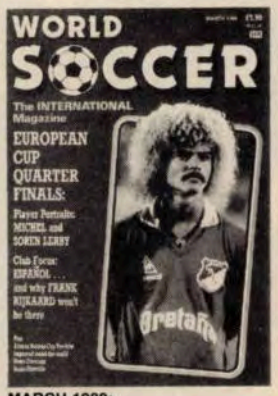

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